

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA

Tuckahoe Library
1901 Starling Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23229-4546

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2012

I. Attendance

Susan Williams, Sandra Brown, Tammy Farmer, Katharine Hunter, Livia Jansen, Rhonda Thissen, Anne Burhans, Ann Cutshall, Lynn DelaMer, Robert Friedline, Selena Ruffin, Becky Sterling, and Donna Wenzel.

II. Guests

Vivian Stith-Williams, Margaret Anne Lane, Rick Gilbert, Sherry Confer, and Andrew Heck.

III. Opening of Business

President Susan Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

IV. Welcome, Introductions, Public Comments, and Announcements

It was announced that Betty Etzler and Bryan Parrish had resigned from the Council, and that MargaretAnne Lane had been appointed the Council as a representative of the DBHDS's Office of Substance Abuse Services.

Anne Cutshall passed out a brochure noting that the Chesterfield Chic-fil-A was sponsoring a fund-raising "Spirit Night" in support of The Virginia Association of the Deaf Blind on Thursday, June 21, 2012. She noted that 15% of sales that day from announced participants would be contributed to the Association.

Serena Ruffin noted that the Tuckahoe Library provided a particularly convenient venue for BHAV meeting and would likely to be used on a regular basis. However, this required some set-up work to prepare. She requested that members assist in this effort and so that everything for the meeting would be ready for breakfast to begin at 9:30.

V. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

With unanimous consent, the Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, as they had been e-Mailed to the members prior to the present meeting. Becky Sterling moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Susan Williams seconded the motion, and it was passed without objection.

VI. DBHDS Report

1. Rhonda Thissen said that the contract renewal process for use of Block Grant funds was underway, including the contract through which the administrative services of MHAV are provided to the Council.
2. Katharine Hunter reported on the Virginia Senate's Bill 201, which includes \$3.5 million for hospital beds for children, crisis prevention services, and child psychiatric services. She noted that further detail is available on the DBHDS web site.

VII. New Business

1. Susan Williams announced that letters had been prepared to invite new private sector individuals, NGOs, and Commonwealth of Virginia entities to join the Council. Rhonda Thissen was asked to seek the agreement of DBHDS Commissioner Stewart for the letter proposed for the participation of State organizations. President Williams indicated that she would sign the letters going to private sector individuals and NGOs.

The membership of previously suggested and newly noted potential members was discussed and the Council Secretary was charged with preparing letters for President Williams' signature.

2. Anne Burhans reported on her attendance at the conference of the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, for which the Council supported her with financial assistance. In addition to her oral report, Anne prepared a written report on the events that transpired and provided each member of the Council with a copy.

VIII. Featured Speakers

1. Dr. Andrew Heck, a licensed and board-certified Clinical Psychologist and the Clinical Director of the Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, provided the Council with background information concerning this 123 bed in-patient facility for patients over 65 years of age. He provided Council members with a detailed outline of his presentation, including statistical data. The primary focus of his presentation was the correlation in patients between the co-occurrence of mental health and substance abuse issues.
2. Rick Gilbert, a recovering alcoholic and forensic peer, provided insights from a personal perspective on problems relating to recovery for victims of the co-occurring trauma of mental health and substance issues. As an activist involved with criminals in the Virginia prison system, he advocated approaches that he felt were useful in treating the issues and preventing recidivism among that population of victims.

IX. Old Business

1. Bylaws: Anne Burhans presented the revised Bylaws of the Council to the membership for approval. They had been provided to the membership through an e-Mail in order that all the

members would be familiar with the changes proposed.

After brief discussion, it was moved by Becky Sterling, and seconded by Ann Cutshall, that the revised Bylaws be approved with the following revision. Article IV.2 be revised to state, “principal state agency representatives”. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Policy and Procedures Manual: Bob Friedline presented several new and revised elements of the P&PM to the Council for approval. The entire document had been mailed to each member of the Council prior to the meeting for analysis and review. Becky Sterling moved that the new and revised elements of the P&PM be accepted as proposed. Ann Burhans seconded this motion and it was approved without objection.

X. Committee Reports

1. Child and Adolescent Services Committee: Chairman Donna Wenzel reported on the uses being made of the \$10 million of Block Grant and related State funded monies being used to support child and adolescent services. Approximately 20% of these monies are being used to support advocacy programs, another 70-75% supports Community Service Boards, and the remaining 5% funds associated administrative costs.

2. Elder Services Committee: Chairman Anne Burhans indicated that the committee is making plans to visit elder service facilities within Virginia to study and evaluate the program efficiency and effectiveness of their activities and report the results to the Council.

3. Finance Committee: Chairman Selena Ruffin reported on the discussions being held with DBHDS concerning the continuation of the MHAV contract to provide administrative support to the Council, as well as ways to more efficiently allocated the funds provided under the Block Grant to provide overall support to the Council.

XI. Adjournment

Future meeting dates are August 15, October 24, December 15. New officer recommendations need to be in by the October 24 meeting. President Susan Williams adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.