

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
MARCH 10, 2015
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARDS
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

The Honorable George L. Barker, *Virginia State Senate*
JoAnn Burkholder, *Department of Education (DOE)*
B. Marshall Graham, *Department of Corrections (DOC)*
Henry Harper, *Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)*
Parham Jaber, MD, *Department of Health (VDH)*
Fatimah Kirby, *Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)*
Jamie MacDonald, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB-Prev. Council)*
Charlene Motley, *Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)*
Ron Pritchard, *Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals (VAAP)*
Mellie Randall, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
The Honorable Scott W. Taylor, *Virginia House of Delegates*
The Honorable Jennifer T. Wexton, *Virginia State Senate*
William H. Williams, Jr., *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB-SA Council)*
Diane Williams-Barbour, *Virginia Certification Board (VCB)*
Eddie Wirt, *Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)*

GUESTS:

Will Frank, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Margaret Anne Lane, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Karen Taylor, *Office of the Attorney General (OAG)*

- I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order by the Council Chair, William H. Williams, Jr. Mr. Williams welcomed members and guests and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.
- II. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2015 MEETING:** A motion was made by Ron Pritchard and seconded by Senator Wexton to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was carried.
- III. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - **STAFF REMINDER:** Ms. Lane requested that council members review the membership roster, the sign-in sheet, and the name tents to make any needed changes for 2015. She reminded members to RSVP to meeting notices. She reported that updated council information is available on the SASC page of the DBHDS website.

- **SASC 2014 ANNUAL REPORT AND LETTER:** Since the council's work last year focused on medical marijuana, members decided to send a letter with their recommendation for further study in addition to submitting the SASC Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly. Staff prepared a letter based on the council's decision to include key points from the presentations made to council in 2014. Upon review, DBHDS staff recommended shortening the letter since the key points were included in the Annual Report, which was referenced in the letter. Members were provided with copies of the Annual Report, the letter and the key points document. Ms. Randall thanked Dr. Jaberi and Dr. Ait-Daoud for their assistance in developing the key points document. The Annual Report, the letter and the key points document have been posted to the SASC page on the DBHDS website.
- **UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEROIN ABUSE:** Ms. Randall encouraged members to visit the task force's website, which contains the task force's and the workgroups' meeting minutes, agendas, reports, and presentations. To access the website, visit www.dhp.virginia.gov and click on the link to the Governor's Task Force. The taskforce is expected to conclude its work by the end of June with a final report for action.

Ms. Burkholder expressed concern that the Department of Education is not part of the education workgroup and that the task force does not appear to focus on early identification or prevention of adolescent substance use. Ms. Randall will share Ms. Burkholder's concern with the task force, and she noted that Gail Taylor, DBHDS's Director for Behavioral Health Wellness, is a member of the education workgroup and will address this issue.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE RELATED LEGISLATION:

- Members were given a summary of 2015 legislation tracked by the Office of Substance Abuse Services and a comprehensive summary of additional legislation of interest to the council. Ms. Randall stated that the naloxone pilot (REVIVE!) will be going statewide; civil immunity now applies to prescribers; and pharmacists can now dispense the medication with a prescription under a protocol (to be developed).
- Senator Barker commented that one other significant piece of legislation that was passed was HB1500 Safe Reporting of Overdosing. Senator Wexton stated that, if someone reports another individual or themselves suffering an overdose, stays at the scene or at the hospital where they are ultimately transported, and cooperates with police, that person will have an affirmative defense to charges of possession of a Schedule I or II controlled substance. Senator Barker stated that passage of the medical marijuana legislation was also significant.
- Mr. McDonald noted a recommendation from the State Crime Commission about regulating tobacco retailers. Part of what was driving the recommendation was the loss of tax revenue from cigarettes that are bought wholesale and then taken out of the state and the involvement of organized crime. This also led to a recommendation that ABC assume

a role in creating a license for tobacco retailers. Neither the Senate Bill nor a companion House Bill passed. One of the benefits of the recommendation, if it comes back up again, is that it would create a database of tobacco retailers and nicotine vapor retailers in the state. Presently, the list of retailers of tobacco products is incomplete. The SAPT Block Grant requires that states receiving the grant have to meet a rate of 20% or less of retailer violations of sales to minors. If the legislation had passed, the benefit would have been a more complete database for a more strategic approach to compliance checks, resulting in lowering underage sales and youth tobacco use rates.

- Ms. Randall stated that DBHDS was very interested in this legislation and explained the current process for the compliance checks to meet the Block Grant requirement. Mr. Wirt noted that ABC looked at this legislation from a licensing perspective. ABC is in the midst of replacing its licensing system. If this legislation comes up next year, ABC can plan for it in its new licensing system.

FEDERAL AND STATE BUDGET OUTLOOK:

- Ms. Randall stated that DBHDS received notice of its award for the SAPT Block Grant, including an increase of \$27,000. The award has stayed between \$40 and \$42 million for many years. The General Assembly appropriated about about \$48 million to community services boards for substance abuse treatment.
- Ms. Randall described the SAMHSA discretionary grants that DBHDS will pursue: one focuses on substance abuse issues for transition age youth, 16-25; another, on substance abuse and homeless adults; and a third on funding medication assisted treatment.

2015 MEETING PLANNING:

- Chairman Williams stated that the council will continue its study of marijuana this year, and he requested suggestions from council members on topics to consider.
- Senator Barker stated that the General Assembly dealt with this issue responsibly and that the council's agenda should be based on the recommendation contained in the council's letter to the Governor and General Assembly. He noted that the council previously heard many useful presentations on the effects of marijuana. He recommended getting law enforcement's perspective on the issue.
- Ms. Burkholder suggested hearing about the impacts of marijuana on adolescents.
- Delegate Taylor would like to see information from Colorado and the surrounding states that have been affected by laws in Colorado.
- Mr. Pritchard stated that council should also take a look at better utilization of certified substance abuse counselors. Ms. Randall responded that she understood Mr. Pritchard's concern, and that this issue would fall under the authority of the Department of Health Professions as the responsible agency.

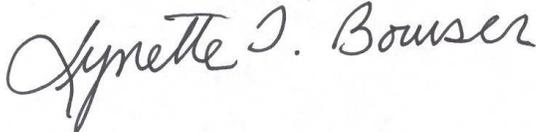
- Council recommended that presentations be arranged on: addressing marijuana's impact on adolescents; explaining law enforcement's perspective; and detailing Colorado's experience with legalization. Ms. Lane will coordinate presentations on these topics for the May and June meetings.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Dr. Jaberri added a comment on behalf of the Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE) organization that presented to the council last year. Their Drug Free Communities Grant, which supported the organization for the last 10 years, ran out at the end of January and they are now down to one staff person. Dr. Jaberri recognized their good work and recommended continued contact with SAFE to benefit from the information they can share with council.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynette J. Bowser". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lynette Bowser