

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
MARCH 27, 2012
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Arnold, *Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)*
Senator George Barker, *Virginia State Senate*
Wayne Barry, *Department of Education (DOE)*
Sandra Brown, *Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)*
Dr. Sue Cantrell, *Department of Health (DOH)*
Henry Harper, *Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth*
Senator Mark Herring, *Virginia State Senate*
Greg Hopkins, *Virginia Drug Court Association (VDCA)*
Art Mayer, *Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)*
Jamie McDonald, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Prevention (VACSB-Prevention)*
Charlene Motley, *Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)*
Jean Mottley, *Department of Corrections (DOC)*
Ron Pritchard, *Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (VAADAC)*
Mellie Randall, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Gina Thorne, *Virginia Association of Drug Abuse Professionals (VADAP)*
Bob Weakley, *Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)*
Diane Williams, *Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia (SACAVA)*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/ SA Council (VACSB-SA)*

GUEST:

Mark Blackwell, *SAARA/VADAP*
Martha Kurgans, *DBHDS*
Rhonda Thissen, *DBHDS/Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC)*
Dr. Susan Williams, *Chair, Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC)*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DBHDS*
Julie Truitt, *DBHDS*
Karen DeSousa, *Office of the Attorney General (OAG)*

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Will Williams, with introductions by those in attendance.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2011 MEETING:

A motion was made by Ron Pritchard and seconded Charlene Motley to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- **DESIGNER DRUG WORKGROUP:** Ms. Randall reported the workgroup has not yet convened. Relevant articles have been distributed regarding emerging issues related to designer drugs. Members were provided with three recent articles from the Richmond Times Dispatch about local use of the designer drug 25i; an article on synthetic marijuana being banned and Delegate Loupassi amendment to add 25i to a current bill. Ms. Randall further stated after meeting with the SA Council of VACSB, the issue of designer drugs is clearly a statewide concern. A component of this issue is providing assistance to emergency medical professionals in identifying and providing appropriate services for persons under the influence of a designer substance. She suggested that the Council's designer drug work group might want to consider how to disseminate information and produce some guidelines about appropriate identification and discuss the challenges to providing appropriate health interventions. Ms. Randall will continue to disseminate articles to the Council and will convene a conference call with the members of the workgroup in the near future.

Mr. Williams stated that another issue in this area is urine drug screen (UDS) testing and the cost of this testing for designer drugs. He suggested the workgroups focus should encompass strategies in addressing the issues related to designer drugs as well as a state wide opportunity to contract for the purchase of appropriate testing instruments for general testing related to UDS detection of designer drugs.

- **OTHER OLD BUSINESS:**

- Ms. Randall stated that at the last Council meeting there was a discussion about the prescription medicine take back events. Members were provided with a copy of the proclamation, signed by the Governor, recognizing April as Prescription Medicine Take Back Month. Localities across the state will be hosting take back events during the month of April.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:** Ms. Truitt reported that Will Williams has been appointed Chair of the Council and his term will be through June, 2013. Other appointments to the Council are Diane Williams (SACAVA), Sheriff Timothy Carter (Virginia Sheriffs' Association), and Michele White (Virginia Drug Court Association). Gina Thorne, current President of VADAP, will represent that organization. There are two vacancies representing advocacy groups to the Council. Sandra Brown will be representing DMAS to the Council. Ms. Truitt will keep Council posted on appointments and changes in representation.
- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE RELATED LEGISLATION:** Staff provided Council with a tracking sheet of legislation from the 2012 session of the General Assembly. Some updates to the tracking sheet included:
 - Martha Kurgans stated that HB507 involved reporting substance exposed infants; reporting by physicians was changed to expand the providers reporting and reporting practices.

- Ms. Randall stated that HB1126 involving the creation of Sanctions and Unified Rapid Enforcement (SURE) courts was passed in the Senate but not the House and has been tabled.
 - HB1291 passed and the Governor's reorganization of executive branch of state government will transfer the responsibility for the administration of the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention to the ABC Board.
 - HB27 passed and, according to Ms. Randall, allows DBHDS to receive contributions and donations that will transfer into a fund available to make grants to peer support programs. The bill requires DBHDS to develop a workgroup that includes members of the peer support community to establish the process for making those grants, and the threshold of funding to be met grants are made. Currently, there is no money in the fund.
 - Budget Item 314 #1s, Ms. Randall reported this item requires DBHDS to report on funds transferred from ABC to support the care and treatment of people with substance use disorders. Currently all ABC profits are deposited into the general fund, and DBHDS receives approximately \$45 million in general funds to support substance abuse treatment.
- **FEDERAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE BUDGET OUTLOOK:** Ms. Randall reported that there has been a slight decrease in the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT-BG) award to the state. DBHDS received notice of Virginia's award and the decrease is approximately \$90,000 of the previous allocation of \$45 million. The SAPT BG is allocated to states and territories based on population and a ratio of manufacturing to non-manufacturing income in the state. Basically, Virginia's share of the total federal appropriation is about 2%.

Stephanie Arnold also reported that DCJS received their federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for state prisoners grant program allocation last week to apply for up to \$213,000. Last year they received \$574,000, so this year's allocation is a significant decrease. DCJS will be meeting to determine how to fund the current projects. Presently, there are three RSAT grant programs and as currently there are no plans for new solicitations.

- **SAMHSA POLICY ISSUES:** Ms. Randall reported that the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and it administers the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant as well as the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. At the federal level, there is concern regarding the status of SAMHSA and the block grants as related to the initiation of healthcare reform. Currently the respective block grants are used by states to provide treatment services to people who are medically indigent. If healthcare reform is implemented, the medically indigent will be covered by the expansion of Medicaid. Congress has not reauthorized the block grants, which means that both grants are operating under legislation that is 20 years old. Within the realm of these dated statutes, SAMHSA is trying to help the states prepare for healthcare reform. One of the initiatives requested through SAMHSA is a more collaborative efforts between state substance

use disorder divisions and mental health divisions. Virginia is well positioned to participate in collaborative efforts because both divisions are in the same agency. SAMHSA has asked that both the mental health and substance abuse grant applications be submitted jointly, which the DBHDS did last summer. SAMHSA has also asked that all the states have a Behavioral Health Planning Council, which could include the Mental Health Planning Council and the Substance Abuse Services Council becoming one Council.

It was noted that the functions of the Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) focus is the review of the mental health block grant application and the Substance Abuse Services Council, which is mandated by state statute, focuses primarily on interagency planning and has a requirement to submit an annual report with recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor. Dr. Susan Williams, Chair of MHPC, and Rhonda Thissen, principle staff person from DBHDS, were invited to the SASC meeting to begin discussion on how these two Councils could meet this federal requirement, without losing the focus of both Councils.

Dr. Williams provided an overview of the MHPC. The MHPC is very consumer led and focused. The Council is comprised of interagency and state agency participants as well as consumers. There is some anxiety regarding the transition of a MHPC into a Behavioral Health Council, fearing that mental health concerns will be lost. Suggested transition includes the MHPC being absorbed into the SASC or SASC members added to the MHPC and how any suggested combination would function. DBHDS staffing is central to both Councils and has been tasked to organize the federal mandated Behavioral Health Council. The goal of the discussion was to receive input from SASC members on their thoughts regarding a transition. In general there was a consensus that addressing both mental health and substance abuse in joined Council is past due. However, it was noted that each Council will have to continue to address their individual mandates.

After some discussion about the importance and timelines associated with this requirement, it was decided that the MHPC and the SASC should convene to discuss how to meet the need, given that there are two Councils with different functions, legislative mandates, representation and requirements. A suggestion was made that a task force be developed with representatives from both Councils to become educated about each Council's duties.

A motion was made by Ron Pritchard and seconded by Jean Mottley to invite representatives of the MHPC to the next SASC meeting. The motion was carried. Also, the Chair of the SASC will attend the April meeting of the MHPC.

- **NASADAD PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE:** Ms. Randall reported that the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is closely monitoring the healthcare reform debates and the future of funding. NASADAD helps states to track developments in Washington/federal government as it relates to substance abuse issues and its affect at the state level. The current focus is healthcare reform issues. This is expected to have an impact on the federal funding

received by states to provide substance abuse prevention and treatment. The current State infrastructures are based on block grant funds which could be impacted by healthcare reform.

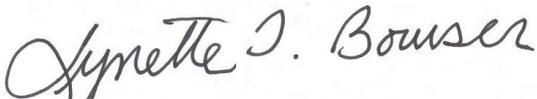
In regard to healthcare reform, Senator Barker suggested that the Council that prepare their agenda and recommendations regarding how Behavioral Health care should be administered as well as how the current system can best address the recommendations. The Council establish a means to provide a single message and voice to promote the recommended behavioral health changes.

- **SCHEDULING OF 2012 MEETING DATES AND TOPICS:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, at the VACSB. Suggested items for the agenda include a presentation by SAAS (State Associations of Addiction Services), and the Committee Chairs from the Mental Health Planning Council will be invited to the meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no comments from the public.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business Ron Pritchard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Diane Williams. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynette T. Bowser