

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting December 15, 2020

1:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting: ZoomGov Meeting

<https://dbhds.zoomgov.com/j/1611268397>

Meeting ID: 161 126 8397

Passcode: 2+GB%bqw

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Senator John Bell, CHAIR
Victor McKenzie, Jr. SECRETARY

DRAFT

Members Present:

John Bell, *Senator 13th District (Chair)*

Jessica Lee, *Reentry Services, VA Dept. of Corrections*

Delores McQuinn, *Delegate, 7th House District*

Jennifer Sayegh,

Madeline Berry, *VA Cert Board*

Aditya Narayan, *Dept. of Social Services*

Jennifer Boysko, *Senator, 33rd District*

Patrick Hope, *Delegate, 47th District*

Katie Crumble, *Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, Education and Prevention Manager*

Charles (Chuck) Wilcox, *Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals*

Christina Barrille, *Executive Director Virginia Pharmacist Association*

Victor McKenzie, *Executive Director Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia (Secretary)*

Guest

John Shinholser: McShin Foundation – Treatment and Recovery

Council Members

Senator John J. Bell, Chair

Nathanael Rudney, Liaison

Karen Dyer, Executive Support, Commissioner's Office

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Senator Bell asked that each member share his/her role on the council and how long he/she

has served

II. Review of Minutes for October 21, 2020 Meeting

No corrections noted, motion to accept: Jennifer Boysko, second motion, Patrick Hope, all minutes accepted

III. **Old Business** – None

IV. **New Business**

- a. Future course of SASC: Senator Bell spoke about marijuana legislation. His staff reached out to Governor's office and did not receive a response. The following were points of discussion

- Concern about Substance Use Disorder
- Looking at data from June 2014 meeting minutes

- b. Delegate Hope spoke about the increase in overdoses during the COVID pandemic

This is the highest recorded amount at 2,053 deaths this year alone

It is attributed to isolation and job loss

Most cases of abuse are people relapsing, not new addiction

Alcohol sales are up 250%

There is a need for more virtual support

Broadband is needed in rural areas. People are having to use their phones in public areas with WiFi

There is also an increase in domestic violence

An increase in child abuse cases can't be properly calculated due to children doing virtual learning. School is where most cases are recorded

- c. John Shinholser: McShin Foundation – Treatment and Recovery

He spoke about on the following topics:

Getting people into treatment right away

Getting the Governor to make an acceptance of allowing AA and NA meetings to have more than 10 people

VARR was awarded \$250,000 that they have yet to receive – this money needs to be immediately released

We need to re-classify punishment: no more felonies for personal use drug charges

Trauma is the biggest precursor to substance use disorder

When addicts are incarcerated, they are retraumatized

We need to provide authentic recovery support services – have a lockdown detox program, but don't felonize though

Funding is the problem – all hospitals in the Commonwealth need to offer detox and treatment

\$10 million needs to be invested in NGOs – this would add 1000 additional sober beds and 1200 30-day programs for people

Barrier Crimes: this is a huge problem because the best Peer Recovery Specialists usually are restricted due to barrier crimes
Arkansas has it right, Virginia needs to catch up

- d. Senator Bell took action on: reviewing the budget and excluding the 10 person limit on 12 step programs
- e. Action; Draft Letters to send to the Governor and leaders of the General Assembly
 - a. Address gathering limits set on 12- Step and Other Recovery Groups
 - b. Request 25% of the marijuana tax to substance use disorder

Note: This money needs to flow through NGOs and be in the form a grant versus reimbursement

It must specify substance use disorder and NGOs, or it will only go to mental health
Motion was unanimous in favor

V. **Public Comment**

DBHDS website is not updated. – it was agreed they need to do better

VI. **Adjournment- 2:50 P.M.**

VII. **Next Meeting will be the last week in March**