

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL**

Virtual Meeting October 21, 2020

10:00 A.M.

Google Meet (see invite and email)

<https://meet.google.com/rrr-bdro-jnj?authuser=0>

MARY GRESHAM MCMASTERS, M.D., CHAIR

MARNY BENTLY, LPC, SECRETARY

## **DRAFT**

### Members Present:

John Bell, *Senator 13<sup>th</sup> District*

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

Delores McQuinn, *Delegate, 7<sup>th</sup> House District*

Jennifer Sayegh,

Madeline Berry, *VA Cert Board*

Aditya Narayan, *Dept. of Social Services*

Jennifer Boysko, *Senator, 33<sup>rd</sup> District*

Patrick Hope, *Delegate, 47<sup>th</sup> 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*

### Guest

Nathan Mitchell

### Council Members

Mary McMasters, M.D., Chair

Nathanael Rudney, Liaison

Karen Dyer, Executive Support, Commissioner's Office

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. McMasters asked that each member share his/her role on the council and how long he/she has served

## **II. Review of Minutes for June, July & September 2020 Meetings**

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: Dr. McMasters review the history; a need for focus on the council was heightened a couple years ago. She mentioned the increase in funding substance misuse treatment to the group and the effects of COVID- 19. The following were points of discussion
- Request for specific information
  - Behavioral indexes and ARTS program
  - Better coordination for state groups
  - A letter will go to general Assembly: the group wants to be more effective in changing and endorsing the legislation
  - Robert Mosher (Sheriff) and Ms. Newby VA Court System will participate in future meetings
  - Review and discuss the Code as it relates to this Council:
  - Vision of Council: Senator Bell asked what is the vision of the Council, he identified problem areas. Dr. McMasters asked how would he characterize the vision: response identify what we want to do and the change to make the impact.

- b. The Council discussed at length concern with the Needs Assessment and statement of areas of *watch* versus *active movements* and steps in place to address
- Dr. McMasters responded with the focus should be to address those things that seem to “kill the patient first” The council felt certain other areas was more important to address first, however it turns out that all areas are primary, she stress the importance of address the addiction

Senator Bell: Suggest we will work a pathway in VA to seek recovery

J. Boysko: Appreciates what Senator Bell stated, she had conversations with provider of services around the commonwealth. Legislation is being put together this year to work with the hospital to set up guideline with evidence based practices

Delegate McQuinn: Suggest re-education in what addiction is and who and how are affected...stigma identified with the addicted person, rather than seeing it as an illness that needs treatment. Recognize the impact of COVID- 19 on the treatment of those with addiction and stressed the importance of Legislation being informed and feel the Council need to be drivers and advocates.

Dr. McMasters informed the council that there are evidence based practices in place, however, a big problem is that people have different definitions of what addiction is...extreme measures may be needed to make a change happen.

Nathanael Rudney: His experience with Councils a broad missions require foundational work and strategic planning, perhaps meetings more than 4 times per

year. How much target focus on one specific areas and review other councils are doing to improve our own or not duplicate what others are already doing.

Patrick Hope: He agrees that being strategic is good and realize how good we are doing with quarterly meetings: Identify the GAPS programs, but there are needs to identify what the gaps are, have a clearer understanding to know what the council can “bite off” and see the funding source and how much.

Dr. McMasters: Even with good insurance, adherence to the standard of care treatment is low. The additional funding is there but noone is fully maximizing them for evidence based practices

Senator Bell: Advocates for big bold vision but know it can't all be done at once. Would like to explore the GAP analysis...mentioned NARCAN and the after treatment. What do you do when a loved one needs treatment, do people know what a dual diagnosis is? A gap is how to help people get to the right place for treatment and resources. Do we have data available?

Nathanael Rudney responded with DBHDS has data available and Alexandria Robinson could come in and speak to service gaps and this could be a theme for next year.

Senator Bell: What happens when you receive a Naracan shot

Dr. McMasters: Hopefully an assessment is done and treatment is offered at the appropriate level of care. The recipient can walk away after treatment is advised

Nathanael Rudney mentioned that REVIVE is available through DBHDS, Alexandria Robinson, offered to send information.

Chuck Wilcox: This is a huge issue multi facet, expands wide: wackamal/dust in the wind – lacks adequate distribution of fund and resource due to lack of structure. The focus areas expand to all (police, med etc) the council operates in a manner similar.

Nathanael Rudney offered that most dollars go to treatment versus prevention

Dr. McMasters used the analogy of a balloon when squeezed as it relates to the substances involved in addiction

Senator Boysko asked if we could hear more from providers

Dr. McMasters mentioned she was/is a provider retired and that stigma is a huge

problem as some are clueless, teaching of addiction is an area of weakness, and reimbursement is weak, access to resource

Delegate McQuinn reiterates re-education due to stigmas, people are identified as a criminal issue

Dr. McMasters recognized the legal substance addiction such as nicotine

Aditya is an advocate for stigma/education as a focus track

Victor McKenzie added that his group is launching support groups to educate people to aid in eradicating stigmas

Chuck Wilcox mentions that there are ranges of providers, some are really great and other need additional information and standards. Recovery housing monitoring was mentioned as a possible area of inadequacy. Peer Support Specialist could possibly be overused, there may be times when a therapist is needed.

Nathanael Rudney recognizes the title of the council and would like to see that change to help with the stigma: the council does have identified goals/requirements to fulfill that may need to play a role in how we move forward.

Senator Bell would agree that the requirements mentioned by Nathanael would feed into changing the gaps

Dr. McMasters spoke about treatment of those receiving Narcan – Recovery Coaches and standard of care – why are those identified not receiving the standard of care available?

Chuck Wilcox: ask the governor who is on his staff responsible for the support (medical, funding, resources)? Once we are aware of that person we can talk to that person to make efforts to get stuff done

Aditya suggest bringing in public and private data source as a project. The drug policy alliance have a de-stigmatation language.

Dr. McMasters mentioned these questions mean the council means business, we need to utilize some tools from the past such as the HIV crisis which could be helpful.

Jennifer Boysko: emphasize de-stigmata and re-education

Nathanael Rudney offered Margaret Steele can be available for future presentation

to provide additional information on programs in place with DBHDS Adult Behavioral Health

**Summary:** It was agreed that the below ideas and goals and directional start for first meeting of next year 2021 will be:

De-stigmatizing

Ascertain if or will there be a Governor appointed staff member as a contact for the SASC

Develop a plan to execute in the next one to two years

Dr. McMasters mentioned resources available that is not well known: ex: marijuana workgroup unaware of document prepared by council and how to get this information distributed to resources throughout the commonwealth.

Senator Bell mentioned that he does want to address COVID- 19 as he states the challenge is extreme

Jennifer Boysko mentioned as Chair, of Broadband Council, they have provided information about funding and their addressing COVID- 19, Marcus Alert and Substance Abuse through non-punitive measures/evidence based.

Nathanael Rudney stated that looking at Narcan is something else to address in the New Year

Senator Bell added that guideline should be in place for following recommendation and is hoping the General Assembly(GA) changes would bring out more reception and follow. GA identified the social and racial justice, the gap is valid in stigma and support. Letters drafted will go to the governor's office and GA

**V. Review and elect nominations for Council**

Structure of Council: a new chairman and secretary

The role of the chair was clarified: facilitate meetings, agenda to request support for coordination of presentation, reports and end

Nathanael stated that no nominations were received – opened to the floor

a. Patrick Hope nominates Senator Bell who graciously accepts and thanked everyone for the nomination,

A vote was initiated: Motion made Patrick Hope, second J. Boysko

b. New Secretary: Victor McKenzi, Jr volunteered – unanimous consent; all accepted per new chair Sen Bell

**VI. Public Comment- None**

VII. **Adjournment- 11:36 a.m.**

VIII. **Next Meeting to be determined**

**Chat Messages:**

Nathan Mitchell

10:03 AM

Good Morning from The McShin Foundation and the recovery community

Nathanael Rudney

10:03 AM

Good morning!

Nathanael Rudney

10:14 AM

Hi Christina, welcome!

Christina Barrille

10:34 AM

Good morning!

Nathan Mitchell

10:36 AM

Access to treatment and long term, sustainable recovery

Freedom Analytics

10:58 AM

"Force to Identify and Close Gaps to reduce substance abuse in Virginia"

1. ID and Develop Plan to Close Gaps

Freedom Analytics

11:00 AM

2. Initial Gaps - Crisis Actions (overdose, diversion, timelines for treatment); Resources for families/loveones (Navigator)

3. Gap with stigma

**Mary McMasters**

11:03 AM

We have Evidence Based Standards of Care. Why aren't they being used?

**Freedom Analytics**

11:04 AM

3. Reducing Stigmas

**Mary McMasters**

11:05 AM

Measureable: Measurement of gaps in Standards of Care- where are there deviations from the standards and why are they occurring?

**Jennifer Boysko**

11:06 AM

De-stigmatize the issues - action item: look at amending the term substance abuse and the term used in the code and agency language for individuals who are living with an addiction.

Aditya Narayan

11:10 AM

<https://gcn.com/articles/2020/02/27/faact-data-analytics-opioid-tracking.aspx>  
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/august/headline-845796-en.html>

Aditya Narayan

11:12 AM

<https://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/documents/Drug-Use-Glossary-for-Elected-Officials.pdf>

Mary McMasters

11:17 AM

Require that one of the Advocate positions on the Council should be occupied by a board certified Addictionologist. I mean, if we were talking about carcinogens in the drinking water, wouldn't you want a board certified oncologist in the group.

Jennifer Boysko

11:23 AM

It would be good to bring advocates from the health care providers to this effort.

Victor Mckenzie Jr

11:35 AM

Victor McKenzie, Jr - victor@saara.org

Jessica Lee

11:36 AM

I did not receive the PowerPoint since I am new to the meeting.

Mary McMasters

11:38 AM

Ms. Boysko, You'll have a medical health care provider, Peter Breslin, MD, at the next meeting.

Jessica Lee

11:39 AM

jessica.lee@vadoc.virginia.gov

Nathan Mitchell

11:39 AM

While I did not speak during the public comments period, I do want to toss out there that any de-stigmatization efforts must include at a minimum the de-felonization of simple possession.

Victor Mckenzie Jr

11:42 AM

Victor McKenzie, Jr. [victor@saara.org](mailto:victor@saara.org)