

Draft
**MINUTES OF THE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
JULY 15, 2020**

MARY MCMASTERS, M.D., CHAIR

Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/wvs-agiq-muk?hs=122&authuser=0>

MEMBERS PRESENT

Del. Delores McQuinn, *Member, Virginia House of Delegates*

Sen. Jennifer B. Boysko, *Member, Senate of Virginia*

Nathanel Rudney, *Dept. Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*

Carole Pratt, *Virginia Department of Health*

Arthur Mayer, *Department of Juvenile Justice*

Ron Prichard, *Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals*

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

Heather Martinsen, MSW, ICPS, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards – Prevention Services*

Mary McMasters, MD, Chair, *Consumer and Advocacy Groups*

Madeline Berry, *Virginia Certification Board, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority*

Stephen Wade, *Dept. of Social Services*

Del. Keith Hodges, *Member, Virginia House of Delegates*

Del. Patrick Hope, *Member, Virginia House of Delegates*

Chuck Finney, ??? Findlay?

GUEST

Gail Taylor, Director, *Department of Behavioral Health & Development Services, Substance Abuse Services*

COUNCIL STAFF

Nathanael Rudney, *Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*

Karen L. Dyer, *Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Dr. McMasters called the meeting to order and introduced the guest speaker for the day. Dr. McMasters asked all attendees to introduce themselves.
- II. Review and approval of the minutes for June and July 2020 will be done at the next meeting.
- III. Ron Pritchard moved to accept the review of minutes at the next meeting and Senator Boysko second the motion.
- IV. Nathanael Rudney provided a review of the funding status presented at the June 2020 meeting. Nathanael also provided clarity for terms of service on the council and who falls into which category.
- V. Dr. McMasters provided an overview of addiction as a chronic disease to provide insight into Gail Taylor's presentation at 11:00 a.m. She explained that addiction is not substance specific and the type of substance misused can switch in an effort to maintain the addiction. As a tie into Gail's presentation, Dr. McMasters explained

that addiction has a strong genetic component, like diabetes, and it runs in the families. Preventative and treatment were provided such as education not only with adults but youth in the school systems, identifying those who are pre-disposed. Addiction is a treatable disease, and the treatment includes behavioral therapy and possibly medication.

VI. The council went into recess from 10:20 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. to return virtually for Gail Taylor's presentation

VII. New Business

Presentation: Gail Taylor presented with a PowerPoint that provided an overview of Virginia's approach to prevention across the state. Gail started with the vision of *working to support thriving communities*. She added that funding support comes from Federal dollars, however her department are seeking state funding in addition to expand their efforts. The efforts include identifying community issues and response, to mobilize as a community and not individualize. The needs are for more than one group with the focus from the womb to adults. The age group is 15 – 25 years with the highest rate of substance abuse.

Trauma is one of the gateway drugs. Gail presented research and best practices in support those with trauma, as well as identifying areas of improvement through various strategies. The Evidence based planning model based on data was used versus the "feel good" model. The Virginia Social Indicator dashboard was used to find data in localities and to do a needs assessment. Areas identified for the block grant were: Alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, mental health/suicide. Her department is collaborating with CSBs and community coalition groups to enhance education. The Virginia specific academy training is a 3-day training to take back information and best practice strategies to the communities. In addition, Virginia has tobacco retailer inspections taking place, 28-drop boxes for unused medications in S.W. VA, and there are mental health first aid trainers to help with prevention. Behavioral Health equity trainings are available and evaluations present outcomes from awareness and prevention trainings

COVID – 19 causes an increase in social isolation and stress. An example of continuing outreach to the community is the Hampton CSB which has virtual meetings held with door dash food delivery to ensure continuity of the meetings.

Question: Senator Boysko, have Legislative initiatives been funding support for the actions?

Gail responded to say an ACE Bill is in motion to address agencies however the effort is minimum

Gail mentioned that support with tobacco licensing requirements is mandated

Question: Dr. McMasters, how do you include harm reduction in prevention?

Response: Gail stated that naloxone training is given, however funding support is limited.

Keith Hodges mentioned that it is interesting that realtors are contributing to the solution by having owners remove medications from home which are being shown.

He also offered that pharmacist can participate in educating about proper storage of opioids and prescription drugs.

Gail Taylor added that community coalitions contributes to these efforts

Gail Taylor's PowerPoint is available for future viewing/reference

Ron Prichard announced the Summer Institute on Addiction Studies will happen in September virtually, and that the Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine is a available resource

Dr. McMasters asked if the group prefers virtual or in person meeting, IF given the choice. The group decided on virtual.

VIII. Senator Boysko motioned to adjourn, Ron Pritchard second the motion

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.