

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL

March 30, 2021: 10:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting: ZoomGov

Meeting <https://dbhds.zoomgov.com/j/1611885724>

Meeting ID: 161 188 5724 Passcode: U\$h^Fm!8

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Senator John Bell, CHAIR

Victor McKenzie, Jr., SECRETARY

Members Present:

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

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

Jennifer Boysko, *Senator, 33rd District*

Patrick Hope, *Delegate, 47th District*

Keith Hodges, *Delegate, 98th District*

Delores McQuinn, *Delegate, 70th District*

Duke Storen, *Commissioner*

Marjorie Yates

Aaron Palmer

Alyssa Ward

Becky Bowers-Lanier

Angela Weight

Carole Pride

Dr. Peter Breslin

Ke'Shawn Harper

Henry Harper

Margaret Corum

Allison Land

Jen Sayegh

Natale Christian

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

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

John Shinholser: McShin Foundation – Treatment and Recovery

Guest

Katrina King, *Senior Community Coordinator, Empower Community Opioid Project, George Mason University*

Council Members

Senator John J. Bell, Chair

Nathanael Rudney, Liaison

Karen Dyer, Executive Support, Commissioner's Office

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS John Bell, Senator

Attendance: We ask that each member share his/her role on the council and how long he/she has served

II. Review of Minutes for December 15, 2020 Meeting.....John Bell, Senator

III. Old Business – None

IV. New Business

- a. Katrina spoke on the need for collaboration between hospitals and the criminal justice system. She also talked about the need for grant funding for the medical community to partner with the peer community.

Barrier Crimes still pose a huge problem. Many PRS can't do their job because of them.

The Peers don't trust the Doctors, but they do trust the PRS. Peer Recovery Specialists need to be embedded in agencies, in the communities and have a relationship with the medical community.

- b. Delegate Hodges asked Katrina to explain some of the difference between urban and rural barriers: Medicaid expansion in the jails – if someone has Community based Medicaid and goes to jail, it gets switched to Institutional Medicaid. Once that person is out of jail, it takes months for their plan to get switched back. No provider will assess them until they have active coverage. If someone has a certain dual diagnosis, providers won't see them. They can also be blocked from treatment due to health issues (ex. Asthma). There are not enough resources to meet the demand (ex. Only 20 beds in the state for females). There were approximately 2000 referrals in a 2-year period in her area.

40% of adults admit to having some form of Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder and 75% of young adults admit to having the same since Covid.

- c. John Shinholser: McShin Foundation

- i. Hospital issue: didn't have this problem 25 years ago. They embraced people with addiction because they had a built-in treatment center. As time went by, we stigmatized addiction and the criminal justice field took over the mitigation of substance use and mental illness.

- ii. Senator Bell wants an in-person meeting for funding.

- d. Marijuana Legalization is coming to Virginia – 25% of that income will go to treatment. If someone wants to get better, they can.

- e. Marjorie Yates spoke of frustration in getting PRS in ER. Even with Danny's Law being passed, it's still not enough. Online alcohol sales are up 250% since Covid.

- f.** John Shinholser – there are over 1000 sober beds in Richmond. With funding coming to VARR, they can increase capacity in Virginia, including rural areas.
- g.** Senator Bell – we need to work this honestly. Involve the faith community as well.
 - i.** Help prepare people for what’s coming and being made available. Assessment of who’s doing what is needed.
 - ii.** Set up annual audits now to help the organizations prepare for public funding.
- h.** Margaret Corum – Ally Training Hub is being set up to grow the Peer Support Community at the State level.
- i.** Peer leaders need more “on the ground” experience. Young people hate the word “Recovery” because they feel like it defines them. It’s an unexpected stigma. Katrina stated that we would have more volunteer PRS if we went about it differently.
- j.** Harm Reduction Services – MAT, more education about Suboxone, passing out Narcan. There are only 4 legal Needle Exchanges in Virginia that received funding by BDH.
- k.** Dr. Breslin – RCO’s and NGO’s – waitlist for those with Medicaid. There needs to be additional funding.
- l.** Senator Bell – link to bills from last session
 - i.** SB1464 – Drug Control Act – identifies substances found on the streets to be added to the Schedule I list.
 - ii.** SB1333, HB2218 – Pharmacy Processors – pharmacist has oversight for the entire facility. Provides oversight only for dispensing and compounding of the THC oil.
 - iii.** HB1987 – Telemedicine Coverage – insurance coverage is required for telemedicine visits.
- m.** Henry Harper asked Del. Hope about Tobacco Retail Licensing – anyone who sells tobacco or vaping equipment to have a license. After the age for purchasing tobacco was increased to 21, there was no enforcement. It needs to be enforced for tobacco and marijuana.
 - i.** Grant from SAMHSA is in jeopardy if this is not enforced.
- n.** Senator Bell – Marijuana legalization is very complicated.
- o.** Senator Boysko – create a whole new agency just for Marijuana distribution. Asked people to tell their legislator know where they stand on this topic.
- p.** Nathanael – SAMHSA Covid Funds

- i. Biden Administration released funds for Covid Substance Abuse Block Grant - \$39 million for SUD treatment and prevention through DBHDS. These funds need to be expended by September of 2023. Additional funds will be shared directly with localities. These funds are very restrictive, which is frustrating. It's hard to put money in new programs.

V. Public Comment – Katrina King thanked everyone for listening.

- a. John Shinholser – Opportunity for new surge of Block Grant dollars to be matched by State dollars.
- b. Del. Hodges – General Assembly likes Pilot Programs: is there a way to do something in an upcoming session before next year, possibly partner with NGO's?
- c. Proof of Concept – work out some of the issues and address gap needs; easier with Budget money.
- d. Identify gaps and think of Pilot Programs before next meeting.
- e. Faith Based Community used to shy away from addiction. Now there is www.recoverysunday.org

VI. Adjournment- 11:09am

VII. Next meeting will hopefully be in-person