

# Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

## April 20, 2022 Minutes

**Note: Correction to these minutes is on page 8  
The Council voted to approve these minutes once that correction was made**

| MEETING DETAILS           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Date and time:</b>     | April 20, 2022, 10 am  |
| <b>Venue:</b>             | Virtual through Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic   |
| COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS      |  |
| <b>Present</b>            | Patrice Beard (Parent and Partnership for People with Disabilities); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Bruce Cruser (MHAV); Heather Pate (Robin's Hope); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS); Katharine Hunter (DBHDS); Nick Pappas (PEER); Justin Wallace (Suicide Prevention at VDH); Heather Orrock (VOCAL); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Karlyn Clevert-Smith (Private Provider); Duke Burruss (Citizen Advocate); Kristinne Stone (DOE); Jeff Van Arnam (DBHDS); Donna Bonessi (DARS); Dreamel Spady (Private Provider); Caitlin DiBenedetto (NAMI) |
| <b>Guest(s)</b>           | Michael McDermott (Advocate with lived experience); Jennifer Witten (Xferall); Mary Ottinot (Parent, Advocate with Lived Experience and MH Professional); Sandra Nicholas (Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner ODU & Private Practice); Kate Agueli (JLARC); Gunter Gensbygel (Peer with Horizon BH); Erin Sandidge (PEER at Horizon BH); Lakila Davis (Horizon BH Pact Team); Tanecia Newman (NewMan Fitness Foundation); Robyn Hantelman (Recovery Coordinator Goochland-Powhatan CSB)  |
| <b>Unexcused Absences</b> | Katharyn Clark (SAARA);  |
| <b>Excused Absences</b>   | Adam Creveling (DMAS); Patricia Parham (DOC); Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton (PEER)   |
| <b>Minutes Taken By</b>   | Hilary Piland  |
| <b>Presiding Officer</b>  | Patrice Beard, President   |
| <b>Order Called</b>       | Council convened at 10:00 AM   |

Quorum **was** present in today's meeting (requires 13 members, a majority [7 out of 13] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

|  | Item | Discussion/Action  | Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable) |
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| <b>Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment:</b>   |      |  |  |
|  |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patrice began the meeting with introductions and icebreaker.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting</b> |      |  |  |
|  |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce Cruser made a motion to approve the December minutes. Heather Pate seconded that motion. The council voted to approve the minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>OUTCOME: The February meeting minutes were approved</b></p>   |  |
| <b>Treasurer's Report:</b>                       |      |  |  |
|  |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce Cruser shared that the BHAC now has a balance of \$18,743. Because the council has not been meeting in person, it has not had any new expenses. Also, the amount has increased because the council receives regular income from DBHDS.</li> <li>Bruce noted that this money can be used for the strategic planning process.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Updating the Bylaws to Reflect that the BAHC Can Pay for Conferences and Trainings Directly, Rather than Reimbursing the BHAC Member:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council members can apply for the BAHC to pay for conferences or trainings as well as the travel and lodging expenses if the conference or training is more than 50 miles away.</li> <li>As requested by the council, Bruce added in new language that states that the council can pay training/conference registrations, hotel (room only) and transportation directly, so that the BHAC member does not have to front the money at first.</li> <li>Bruce found where years ago the council updated its policy and procedures manual to explain when/how the council would pay for a council member to attend a conference or training. Bruce added in this newest language regarding the BHAC paying for the expenses directly, so that the BHAC member does not have to.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Approval of Document:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce Cruser motioned for the BHAC to approve this updated document titled: <i>BHAC Conference Training Request Policy</i>, which had already been sent out to the BAHC.</li> </ul> |  |

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|                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Pate seconded that motion.</li> </ul> <p><b>OUTCOME: The motion was approved.</b></p>  |  |
| <b>Executive Committee Report:</b> |   |  |
|                                    | <p><b><u>Strategic Planning Process:</u></b></p> <p>Patrice explained that the BHAC went through the strategic planning process a few years ago and had identified three main priorities for the BHAC to focus on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive Committee discussed having a retreat for the BHAC in August or September. The purpose of this retreat will be to look back at the strategic plan the council developed two years ago and either change that plan or add to it.</li> <li>• The council developed three priorities as part of the strategic plan created two years ago. Those priorities will need to be reevaluated as well. Those priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to Care</li> <li>○ MH in Schools</li> <li>○ Peer Recovery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It will be important that any goals and objectives the council develops will be ones that can be implemented and are achievable.</li> <li>• Patrice is trying to get in touch with Erima Fobbs with Collective Health Impact to see if she can be a facilitator for this strategic planning retreat.</li> <li>• Leah Harris was recommended as someone that could be a facilitator, if Eirma Fobbs is not available.</li> <li>• Heather noted that the VOCAL conference is scheduled for Sept. 20-21 and asked that that strategic planning not be during those days.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Membership Report:</b>          |   |  |
|                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Orrock announced that Sandra Nicholas is observing this meeting. She is a possible new member.</li> <li>• Heather Orrock recommended the BHAC approve the membership of Ashlee Fallin. She has submitted a membership application. Ashlee is a mental health professional from Hampton, Virginia.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Approval of a new Member Ashlee Fallin:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Orrock made the motion to approve Ashlee as new member.</li> <li>• Bruce Crusier seconded that motion.</li> </ul> <p><b>OUTCOME: The motion was approved.</b></p>   |  |

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|                            |  | <p><b><u>Potential New Member Mary Ottinot:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hilary Piland will send Mary’s membership application to Heather Orrock for her to bring up to the BHAC at the June meeting so the BHAC can vote on Mary becoming a member of the BHAC.</li> <li>The plan is that Mary will wait and attend the June BHAC meeting 10 minutes late so that the council can vote on Mary at the beginning of the meeting.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>OUTCOME: The council will vote on Mary Ottinot at the beginning of the June meeting.</b></p>   |
| <b>DBHDS Report:</b>       |  |   |  |
|                            |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nathanael shared that DBHDS has a new Commissioner – Nelson Smith. He has initiated developing a new strategic plan and it sounds like some of the priorities for DBHDS will be improving the hospital bed census crisis and improving the workforce challenges.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding the FOIA Template:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nathanael reported that he just learned from DBHDS FOIA officers that the FOIA template that had been shared with the BAHC will need to be updated. Please disregard that template. Nathanael will share with the BHAC the FOIA template once it is updated.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bruce asked Nathanael if the new Commissioner could address this group at some point.</b></p> <p><b>Outcome: Nathanael will ask the commissioner’s office if he can address the BHAC or provide some type of update to the BHAC.</b></p> |
| <b>Block Grant Report:</b> |  |   |  |
|                            |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nathanael noted that this year DBHDS will be submitting the mini block grant application. This is the in between year for the Block Grant. He will provide the BAHC with an update on how the mini block grant application goes when that is in process.</li> <li>DBHDS does a yearly survey to consumers of mental health services to gauge the level of consumer satisfaction. The results of this survey are then reported in the mini block grant report.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Legislative Update:</b> |  |   |  |

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|                           |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bruce shared that Virginia still does not have a budget. MHAV, NAMI-VA, SAARA and other organizations have been monitoring and doing a lot of advocacy work.</li><li>• The BHAC sent the BHAC’s budget priorities to the budget conferees as a way to advocate for more funds. The conferees are members of the general assembly who are appointed to work together to bring the house version and senate version of the budget to be one budget that will then go to the Governor. The reconvened session is April 27<sup>th</sup>, so hopefully there will be a budget that is complete and ready to go to the Governor soon after the reconvened session.</li><li>• Funds for the workforce issue was a priority as well and the increased rate for Peer Recovery Services.</li><li>• The house and the senate’s budgets are \$3B apart. The house wants to return more of the surplus money to Virginians and the senates does not want to return as much to Virginians. The senate wants to instead use those funds for more services.</li><li>• Hilary Piland shared that the Medicaid rate increase for Peer Support services is only in the senate’s budget. It is not in the house version.</li><li>• Heather Pate noted that there has been an effort to have a person with lived experience on the BH Commission. The bill that would have mandated that was carried over to the 2023 GA session. Another effort underway is to have a cohort of people with lived experience to attend all the BH Commission meetings. That way the commission members know there will always be at least one person there with lived experience that can answer questions and testify when needed.</li></ul> |  |
| <b>Committee Reports:</b> |  |   |  |
|                           |  | <p><b>Nominating Committee:</b><br/>A new slate of officers and committee chairs need to be decided on and voted in at the June BHAC meeting for the July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023FY.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bruce Cruser shared that Nick Pappas has agreed to chair the nominating committee this year. Heather Orrock, Livia Jansen, Donna Bonessi, and Caitlin DiBenedetto have agreed to serve on the nominating committee.</li><li>• If anyone is interested in being a chair for any of the committees, then let the nominating committee know.</li><li>• Heather Orrock noted that the membership committee not only needs a chair, but it also needs members.</li></ul>  |  |

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|                      |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The group recommended that if someone wants to nominate another person for an officer role or as committee chair, then please run it by the person being nominated first, to make sure that person is willing to serve in that role.</li></ul> <p><b>Child and Youth Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Katharine Hunter shared that May 5<sup>th</sup> is Children’s MH Awareness Day. For that, DBHDS is planning a virtual panel on youth suicide prevention. It will be recorded and made available to the public on May 5<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>• For the BHAC’s priority on MH needs in schools, the Children and Youth Committee is sending a survey to go to schools to inquire about crisis teams in schools.</li><li>• The Children and Youth Committee is trying to identify someone from the DCJS crisis teams to come speak to the Children and Youth Committee.</li></ul> <p><b>Adult and Elder Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tara Belfast-Hurd shared that the adult and elder committee used its March meeting to reset it’s work plans. The committee will probably have to change or update the letter that was intended to go out to colleges and universities to see what MH services they provide and have listed on their college/university website. The committee is also looking into if DBHDS can have links and resource on its website for college students.</li><li>• For Access to Care for the Criminal Justice population, the committee had previously looked at about 2 jails per region across Virginia. Next, this committee wants to create a resource sheet that can be distributed to jails. One of the Adult and Elder Committee members work for the Dept. of Corrections so she will be able to get that resource sheet distributed.</li><li>• For Peer Support in Senior Centers there was a letter created by the former chair of this committee, but Tara does not know if that letter was ever sent out. The committee plans to send that letter out after some updates.</li></ul> |  |
| <b>New Business:</b> |  |   |  |
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| <b>Public Comment:</b>   |   |  |  |
|  |   | <p><b>Mary Ottinot</b> who is considering becoming a member of the BHAC, spoke as a member of the public. Mary shared that she is excited about being involved in this group and hopes that the BHAC will focus some of its efforts on the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) to help Virginia to become more in alignment with the ADA. Nathanael commented that Mary may want to share more details at the next BAHC meeting as far as what she is referring to in regards to becoming more in alignment with the ADA.</p> <p><b>Michael McDermott</b> from FAVOR Virginia shared his email and website address in the meeting chat:<br/> <a href="http://WWW.FAVORVA.ORG">WWW.FAVORVA.ORG</a><br/> <del><a href="mailto:info@favorva.org">info@favorva.org</a></del> <b>Correction to this email address is below.</b></p> <p><b>Correction: The email address that Michael McDermott provided in the chat was <a href="mailto:Michael@favorva.org">Michael@favorva.org</a> not <a href="mailto:info@favorva.org">info@favorva.org</a></b></p> |  |
|  |   | Notes taken by Hilary Piland   |  |
|  | <b>Meeting was adjourned at 11:40. The committees met after this meeting.</b> |  |  |
| <p><b>Next Meeting(s):</b><br/>June 15, 2022</p> <p><b>Location of meeting: via Zoom</b></p> |   |  |  |

**MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON \_\_\_\_\_**