

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL

June 28, 2022: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Virtual Meeting: ZoomGov

Join ZoomGov Meeting

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Meeting ID: 160 1908 9457
Passcode: 4137121

Senator John Bell, CHAIR

Victor McKenzie, Jr., SECRETARY

****Some portions of Zoom Meeting not able to be transcribed due to audio technical difficulties****

Members Present: 11 participants

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

Nathaniel Rudney

Duke Burress

Katie Boyle

Joe Lindbeck

Bree Morez

Peter Breslin

Adam Hancock

Michelle Steckland

Leslie Hannon

Julie Truitt

Kim Harrison

Yi-ting Chiu

Charles Wilcox

Leslie Egen

John Shinholzer

Karen Harrison (Senator Boysko's
assistant) Aaron Palmer

Jen Smith

Michael Zohab

Angela Weight

Council Members

Senator John J. Bell, Chair

Nathanael Rudney, Liaison

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS John Bell, Senator

Attendance: We ask that each member share his/her role on the council

****Senator Bell awarded Chuck Wilcox on behalf of the Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals (VAAP) which has served, supported, and advanced Virginia’s addiction professionals and Virginia’s recovery communities by providing, enhancing, and ensuring education, ethical standards, and a strong peer and professional network****

[Link for full Senate Resolution 654 recognizing VAAP](#)



- II. Review of Minutes for January 11, 2022 Meeting.....John Bell, Senator**
 - a. No quorum, so can’t accept minutes, not able to take any official votes – delay to next meeting

III. Old Business

- a. None, due to not being able to vote

IV. New Business

- a. **Overview of 2022 Session..... John Bell, Senator**

- i. HB 277 Recovery Residences: Passed in both House and Senate

- ii. SB 425 Barrier Crimes: Did not pass, still needs work

- 1. Comment: Being able to get a job is part of recovery capital

- a. We need data, specific cases and instances to bring to the General Assembly

- 2. Barrier Crime bill cut in half

- 3. PRS training is happening in local jails, but they’re not able to get a job due to barrier crimes

4. Per Senator Bell, consider asking the Governor for help so we can perfect this legislation for next year

iii. Money

1. \$4.1 million budget for substance abuse services; \$300,000 the first year, \$300,000 the second year to help purchase REVIVE! kits
 - a. Data on this is very successful
 - b. What happens after you treat someone? Right now, it's "treating and streeting"
 - c. We need to get them into treatment immediately and some areas are not tracking this
2. \$1.7 million for VARR
3. Legalization of marijuana and gambling funds will go to both substance use treatment and gambling addiction treatment
 - a. Ad hoc committee to vote on at next meeting
 - b. John Shinholser made comments regarding the accreditation
 - c. Forward any thoughts on this to Senator Bell for the next meeting

b. Angela Weight and Mike Zohab, DBHDS State Opioid Response Recovery Services

i. Presentation

1. State Opioid Response Grant \$27,640,634.00
2. Approximately 69,840 individuals have received SOR-funded treatment and/or recovery services
 - a. There is some push back with this
3. Peer Support Services
 - a. Year 3 of SOR funding provided recovery-focused support to 37,845 individuals
 - i. Provided SUD treatment services to 6,488 individuals, through 37 CSBs, 4 DOC facilities and 19 jails

- b. 95% of individuals working with a peer supporter found it helpful with their recovery
- 4. DOC – PRS initiative supported 18 peers who facilitated 39 ongoing groups serving 136 participants across Virginia
- 5. Framework for Addiction Analysis Community Transformation (FAACT)
 - a. Partnership between DCJS and DBHDS
 - b. This will show the availability of beds across the state
- 6. VARR
 - a. Ran through numbers – not shown on the slide (old numbers)
- 7. REVIVE! Trainings
 - a. 10,372 total trained with 828 trainings
- 8. Collegiate Recovery Community
 - a. 8 universities, 584 students, 1,053 one-on-ones, 859 recovery meetings
 - ii. Senator Bell wants to see the database
 - iii. Suggestion made to go visit facilities

V. Next Meeting

- a. TBD – Poll to be taken

VI. Public Comment

- a. FAVOR – copy of presentation given out

VII. Adjournment- 3:00 PM



Substance Abuse Services Council (SASC) | June 28th, 2022

Michael M McDermott Public Comment representing Faces and Voices of Recovery of Virginia (FAVOR of Virginia)

FAVOR of Virginia's mission is "Identifying and Sharing Peer Recovery Service Access Gaps and Best Practices to Improve Virginia's recovery outcomes and community quality through transparent, equitable, unified, inclusive, responsive, non-partisan, supportive, sustainable, disciplined and fundamentally focused non-bureaucratic grassroots advocacy efforts." Personally, I have been a Commonwealth of Virginia resident since March of 1993 and have enjoyed continuous and sustained recovery from Substance Use Disorder (SUD) since November 15th, 1991.

The [DBHDS website](#) states, "The Substance Abuse Services Council (SASC) is established in the Code of Virginia [§2.2-2696] to advise the Governor, the General Assembly and the Board of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) in matters pertaining to substance abuse. Its members are representatives of state agencies, senators, delegates and representatives of provider agencies and advocacy organizations who are appointed by the Governor. The Code requires DBHDS to provide staff and funding to support the operation of the council."

Common current Commonwealth code of [§ 2.2-2696. Substance Abuse Services Council](#) is very comprehensive, but there are three topics not being followed concerning me which I will now address – elected representatives, required annual meetings and SASC staff requirements.

"B. The Council shall consist of 29 members. Four members of the House of Delegates shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates, and two members of the Senate shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules."

"D. The Council shall meet at least four times annually and more often if deemed necessary or advisable by the chairman."

"G. Staff assistance shall be provided to the Council by the Office of Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services."

Only one Republican legislator, Honorable Delegate Hodges, of the six appointed legislators, rather than two or three Republicans is currently appointed and serving. Why??? Of all the currently appointed legislators – Honorable Senators Bell (D) and Boysko (D) and Honorable Delegates Hope (D), McQuinn (D), Hayes (D) and Hodges (R) five are Democrats. Why only a single Republican???

From January 1st, 2021, until December 31st, 2021, only three SASC meetings were held. Why???

From July 1st, 2021, until June 30th, 2022, only three SASC meetings were held. Why???

The [DBHDS SASC webpage](#) lists a past meeting on December 7th, 2021, which was never held. Why???

According to the current SASC legislation, "The Council shall consist of 29 members." Who are they, when were they appointed, how long will they serve, what are their titles, and how can they be contacted by telephone or E-mail??? The legislative clearly states, "Staff assistance shall be provided to the Council by the Office of Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services." Why isn't this information clearly publicly available?

Michael M McDermott Public Comment representing Faces and Voices of Recovery of Virginia (FAVOR of Virginia)

The current [DBHDS SASC webpage](#) also states, “For further information about the Council, please contact [Nathanael Rudney](#) in the DBHDS Office of Adult Community Behavioral Health Services by email & phone at 804-944-1037. Unfortunately, Mr Rudney’s E-mail link is currently programmed to make “Question about Behavioral Health Advisory Council” the E-mail subject, rather than “Question about Substance Abuse Services Council.” Another poor example of legislatively required “Staff assistance shall be provided to the Council by the Office of Substance Abuse Services...”

With these Substance Abuse Services Council current failures now highlighted and commented upon, FAVOR of Virginia’s mission of “Identifying and Sharing Peer Recovery Service Access Gaps and Best Practices to Improve Virginia’s recovery outcomes and community quality through transparent, equitable, unified, inclusive, responsive, non-partisan, supportive, sustainable, disciplined and fundamentally focused non-bureaucratic grassroots advocacy efforts,” I challenge the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to meet their legislative responsibilities so lives will be saved.

Heather Norton, Assistant Commissioner at DBHDS, just socially shared on LinkedIn how her team can step up and succeed –



“Warrior spirit,” with political fairness; legislatively incurred annual meetings and staff assistance; and public knowledge of all council members with their contact information; will greatly improve Substance Use Disorder (SUD) recovery outcomes!

Respectfully,

Michael M McDermott

Michael M. McDermott | Community Recovery Advocate | Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) of Virginia
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Think Globally...Act Locally...Save Lives!!!



Community – People collectively sharing social values and responsibilities...

Recovery – A lifelong individual process of ongoing growth and discovery through shared experience...

Advocate – Someone who passionately supports and relentlessly champions a cause... 