

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL

October 20, 2022 - 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Physical Location: Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)

10128 West Broad Street #B

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Senator John Bell, Chair

Victor McKenzie, Jr., Secretary

Meeting participants:

Virtual:

Mike Fatula- VADOC

Janice Aldridge- DBHDS

Katie Crumble- ABC

Senator Jennifer Boysko

Jessica Lee- VADOC

Don McCourtney- DBHDS

Katie Boyle- VACO

Chuck Wilcox- NAADAC

Marjorie Yates- Lightworks Recovery

In-person:

Senator John Bell- Council Chair

Angela Weight- DBHDS

Julie Truitt- DBHDS

Dr. Carolyn Hawley- VCU

Amira Turner- VCU

Tony McDowell- Opioid Abatement Authority

Marty Kilgore- VFHY

Ashley Harrell- DMAS

Art Mayer- DJJ

Dr. Peter Breslin

Steven Wade- VDSS

Leslie Egen- VDCJS

Brie Juarez- Community representative

Sharon Brown- DMV

Charlene Motley- VASAP

Victor McKenzie, Jr.- Council Secretary, SAARA

Sandy O'Dell- CSBs, Planning District One

Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS

Adam Rosatelli- Opioid Abatement Authority

Mike Zohab, DBHDS

Frank Bellanger, Community representative, Starfish Recovery

Susan Morrow- VA Drug Courts
John Saunders- DMV
Becky Bowers-Lanier, SAARA, VARC

I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**.....John Bell, Senator, Chair
Attendance: We ask that each member share his/her role on the council and how long he/she has served

II. **Review of Minutes from January 11, 2022 (No Quorum) and June 28, 2022 Meeting**.....John Bell, Senator, Chair
Minutes for January 11th and June 28th. Moved and seconded. Unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

A. Presentation-Problem Gambling & Treatment - from Dr. Carolyn Hawley & Amira Turner
(Slide show presented)

Senator Bell wants all money gained from gambling to be audited. Many people coming in for gambling addictions are also involved in SUD. Discussed the history of gambling in Virginia. The VACPG is a part of the national center for problem gambling. It aims to raise public awareness for problem gambling. Gambling was legalized in 1988; other historical slides presented.

Skill based machines were banned, then re-allowed by Gov Northam as a form of Covid relief. They are now running unregulated while the case is in court. This is a big problem. They are in places they were never intended to be. First casino opened in Bristol. Five have been approved across Virginia. Is gambling good/bad for the economy?

80 to 90% of people gamble. Regulations are trying to be put in place that show how much you've lost/won, only allowed to gamble a certain number of hours, etc. Please keep your eyes open to different shops that are promoting/holding gambling machines, because many have not been approved.

Sen. Bell asked if a convenience store makes more money on the machines, is it then considered a gambling establishment or convenience store?

These gambling machines need to be properly regulated and tested, which they are currently not.

In 2021, there was \$44 billion earned. Lottery in VA earned \$3.26 billion in sales. Historical horse racing, like Rosies, had \$3.3 billion in wagers.

Virginia has the problem gambling line. Dr. Hawley went over exactly how they interact with people who have called, including call backs, safety issues, financial issues, etc. 74% of the callers are the gamblers themselves, versus their families. 20% of callers are family members/loved ones of the person gambling.

2021, most popular types of play: slot machines in casinos. There are multiple categories listed on the slide. 88% of callers in one month had no gambling, 71% reduced their debt, 79% had accessed help resources.

People need to be trained to deal with people who problem gamble. Many people who are trained in addiction feel they are parallel trained to deal with the gambling aspect of addiction. They are looking for people who can be crossed trained. Peer support is the first line to point the person to the right direction.

They are offering extensive training for problem gambling worth 30 CEU's.

SOR Funding; had to remove some items from the last 4 years. Only need to hear from 3 grantees out of about 60. Sustainability is an issue after this year. Funding should be received by Nov 15th. For those fighting for funding, tell how the grant helped, who it helped, what would happen if you did not have that grant.

Draft of Annual Report discussed. Copy to be sent out, please edit as needed.

B. Overview of Membership & Roster

Trying to get an idea of what positions are filled.

C. Planning for the rest of the year and topics to consider

Suboxone being able to be filled at pharmacies. Not all pharmacies willing to fill it, especially in SW Virginia. Get a pharmacist or someone from DEA to come speak.

Online pharmacies being a problem.

V. Next Meeting – suggested date December 1, 2022

VI. Public Comment (5-minute speaking limit)

Frank Bellanger – congratulated successes from last year. HB 277

Push for non-government organizations for NGOs, continue to support VARR

VII. Adjournment