**Virginia Addiction and Recovery Council**

**July 13, 2023 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**

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**....... John Bell, Senator, Chair

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

1. **Review of Minutes from April 20, 2023**
   1. No questions on previous minutes- electronically distributed
   2. Quroum achieved
2. **Old Business**
   1. Electronic Communications Policy
   2. Announcements of vacancies
      1. Can start sending in nominations so can vote by end of year
3. **New Business**
   1. Presentation on Specialty Docket- Danny Livingood
      1. Drug Treatment Court Dockets
         1. “Drug Courts”
            1. Use alternative approach in the court system to business as usual
            2. Act as alternative to incarceration
            3. Long-Term, Sustainable Program: Typically 12-15 months in ongoing recovery process for re-building lives to reduce substance abuse + recidivism as a result

Successful completion of course results in reduced/dismissal of charges + incarceration sentences, or both

* + - * 1. Designed to serve non-violent offenders and serve those who are at high risk, high needs (90% of participants)
        2. Overseen by diverse group of individuals: law enforcement, psychiatric specialists, etc.
        3. Uses reward system for motivation
      1. 1 of 3 dockets in VA, along with Behavioral Health Dockets + Veterans Treatment Dockets
    1. Data, Costs, and Outcomes
       1. 90% of participants are identified as high risk, high needs
       2. Most drug courts in VA are adult drug courts- but also have JDR Courts, DUI Courts, Family Courts
          1. Have 63 drug operational courts in VA
       3. 2,575 Virginian deaths from overdose
       4. Department of Judicial Services publish annual reports on 3 year reconviction rates
       5. DOC published data finding that inmates who had history testing positive for opioids/cocaine had higher reconviction rate than those who did not use substances
          1. 18% graduation rate of drug courts compared to 28% of those in other courts

These are reconviction (rather than reincarceration) rates

* + - 1. Need to make sure drug courts are available in ALL regions of Virginia
         1. Comes down to high costs- some regions being able to afford it, others not
         2. Thus, increasing funding
      2. Drug courts ultimately decrease costs reincarceration/recidivism pose, encourage + boost employment, etc.
    1. How to Start or Support Drug Treatment Court Dockets
       1. Knowing the right people
       2. Starting interdisciplinary committee
       3. Completing application to be submitted 30 days prior to statewide drug court advisory committee meetings
          1. Next meeting- October 19
       4. Encourage executive branch partners to assist drug courts

B.  Legislative Budget- new and changes

I. No new changes, still waiting on budget agreement

D. Letter to Governor’s office........ Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS

I. Clarify membership requests and other recommendations

1. Adding member from gambling treatment/prevention

A. Amira Turner and Carolyn Hawley

2. Adding member from Cannabis Control Authority

A. Has yet to be determined- tabled for future meeting (Could also include presentation from Authority at an upcoming meeting)

B. Also important to have constant voice from Opioid Abatement Authority in future meetings

E. Planning for remaining minutes in 2023- August 17 (1-3 PM), December 7 (1-3 PM)

1. Peers in carceral settings- possible presentation option

a. Waiting on more information on this to be released

2. Vote on requiring physical quorum

1. **Public Comment (5-Minute Speaking Limit)**
   1. $500 million from GA for drug courts, but still need to incentivize localities to want to establish them
2. **Adjournment**