

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 13, 2008
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

PATTY GILBERTSON
CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Batten, *Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services*
Joe Battle, *SAARA of Virginia*
JoAnn Burkholder, *Department of Education*
Curtis Coleburn, *Alcoholic Beverage and Control Board*
Angela Coleman, *Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program*
Patty Gilbertson, *Virginia Drug Court Association*
John Gibney, *Lawyers Helping Lawyers*
Donna Gassie, *Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation*
Catherine Hancock, *Department of Medical Assistance Services*
Janice Hicks, *Department of Health*
Hope Merrick, *Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention*
Scott Reiner, *Department of Juvenile Justice Services*
Inge Tracy, *Department of Corrections*
Gayle Turner, *Department of Criminal Justice Services*
Chuck Walsh, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Treatment*

GUEST:

John Shinholser, *SJR 77Committee*
Freddie Simons, *member VACSB Prevention Council*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DMHMRSAS*
Mellie Randall, *DMHMRSAS*
Julie Truitt, *DMHMRSAS*
Karen Walters, *Office of Attorney General*

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by the Chair and opened with introductions by those in attendance.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes of September 29, 2008 meeting. There being no corrections or an amendment, a motion was made by JoAnne Burkholder to approve the minutes as read and seconded by Inge Tracy. The motion was carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE OF SJR 77 – CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Ms. Randall announced that the 3rd of 4 official SJR77 meetings is scheduled for November 18, 2008. DMHMRSAS is on the agenda to respond to recommendations referencing the improvement of data quality, improving dissemination of evidenced-based practices and review of the fee structures across community services boards and how these factors might be barriers to treatment. Also on this agenda is the Department of Education (DOE), a presentation by John Shinholser, and a presentation on medication-assisted treatment. The fourth and last official meeting of the SJR77 committee is expected to meet in December 2008. The agenda is expected to include follow up questions and final committee recommendations.

DISCUSSION: The Council discussed the prior SJR77 committee meetings and the Council's role in these meetings. A suggestion was made that the Council Chair submit a request to Senator Hanger to be included on the agenda for the next SJR77 committee meeting. Members of the Council indicated that verbal remarks highlighting prior SASC Annual Report and Plans could be beneficial to SJR77 committee's work. The Chair will make a request to Senator Hanger to be heard at the December SJR77 committee meeting.

B. OTHER OLD BUSINESS

There was no other old business

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION ON 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND PLAN

Members were sent via email a draft of the 2008 Annual Report and Plan. Ms. Randall reviewed the draft report with the focus on the content of the draft.

PART I: "OLDER ADULTS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE:" Council received a prior presentation on the topic of older adults and substance abuse. The presentation included suggested recommendations- (1) a request for dedicated appropriated funding for the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) to support the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG), as well as (2) request funding to support a pilot or to continue an existing program(s) that focus on Peer Support Organizations and older adults with substance use disorders.

DISCUSSION:

- A suggestion was made to condense or abbreviate the section and include less narrative, to give a description and function of the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG) and the Peer Support Recovery Organizations.
- Members suggested that it would be advantageous to identify current or existing CSB initiatives or programs that serve older adults.

- A request was made suggesting that the Council to research best practices and issue a guidance bulletin to the CSBs. The guidance bulletin could also be posted on the DMHMRSAS website.
- A suggestion was presented to change the word “boomer” in the report to terminology that is more formal.
- Mr. Reiner suggested that the second recommendation be modified to request that DMHMRSAS identify best practices for treating substance use disorders for older adults and disseminate that information prior to requesting any funding.

MOTION: After some discussion, a motion was made by John Gibney to rephrase the recommendation as follows, that the Commonwealth should continue to support existing and planned programs that study, treat and prevent substance use among older citizens, these programs include AAAG, peer support and local CSB programs focused on substance use among older citizens; also the recommendation should include identifying best practices for treatment for this population. The motion was seconded by Scott Reiner and carried.

The Chair indicated that the motion, other suggested corrections/ amendments and the two recommendations will be reflected in the revised Older Adults section.

PART II: DRUG TREATMENT COURTS:

DISCUSSION:

- A suggestion was made to add outcome data or studies that prove the efficacy of the Drug Treatment Court models.
- Ms. Angela Coleman provided background information on the Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program’s (VASAP) opposition to the establishment of the DUI court in Chesterfield.
- Mr. Reiner suggested that the Council’s recommendation in reference to drug courts/DUI courts in the report steer more broadly towards presentation of why drug courts are effective, the benefits of drug courts and a broad recommendation that the Commonwealth supports the continuation and expansion of drug courts in all localities that request to establish a drug court. A decision was made to rework this section to reflect the suggestion.

PART III: PREVENTION.

Ms. Randall suggested reworking and reordering of the information presented in this section with information on the CDC survey presented first. After discussion the “bridging the gap” paragraphs and the “underage drinking” paragraphs were eliminated. The section will be edited to justify the recommendation of having a jurisdictional survey. The recommendation will clearly define a jurisdictional survey and address the impediments that might be expressed about completing the survey.

The recommendation will be reworded to require that all local school divisions complete the state survey. Additionally, the Fall 2011 implementation date will be deleted and replaced with the wording- “implementation to began when appropriate procedures are established”. The information will also reflect the cost of implementation of a state wide survey.

PART IV: MEDICAID:

Mr. Reiner requested the following additional recommendation be added - Council recommends that DMAS, along with all the other SA treatment services programs, and the VACSB work to continue to maximize the use of Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of substance abuse services and identify and overcome barriers to maximize utilization.

Another suggestion was that under the heading “strategies” #5 include the number of providers that attended the DMAS trainings.

PART V: DRUG CAUSED DEATHS IN VIRGINIA: Ms. Randall provided members with an overview of this section. Mr. Reiner suggested that the evidence in the recommendation be expand to include other consequences of prescription drugs and over the counter drug abuse that do not result in death. Also, include information on strategies that are already in place and rational for the need to do more. Mr. Gibney also suggested that the data review section be condensed.

Ms. Randall stated that the recommendation will be expanded to include identifying specific issues to be addressed such as identifying the prescription and over the counter (OTC) drugs that are being abused, method of abuse, who is abusing prescription and OTC drugs, strategies to prevent abuse, and identifying the most effective kinds of treatment or best practices.

The Chair requested that members who have any suggested language changes forward those to Council staff as soon as possible. In closing the draft review she thanked members for their work on the report.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- > Mr. Battle shared a note from Dr. James May that suggests the Council review and support a legislative amendment to the *Code* of Virginia authorizing the Council and revision of the Council bylaws to expand the number of terms that a member may serve. Ms. Randall clarified that the current Code authorizes members of the Council to serve two consecutive three-year terms. The Chair thanked Mr. Battle for bringing Dr. May's request forward.

- > Mr. Reiner suggested that, as the Council wraps up its business for this year, there be a discussion on where the Council should be concentrating its efforts for the coming year. The Chair stated that the next couple of months may bring a change for the service systems both prevention and treatment, as well as changes for those on the Council who represent state agencies. Also, the upcoming session of the General Assembly may possibly bring some more challenges or maybe some opportunities. There may also be some changes at the federal level. Therefore, the Chair suggested it might be premature to make a decision at this point. Mr. Reiner stated that the Council should be thinking about what it can contribute constructively in the environment that exists. Everyone was in agreement.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

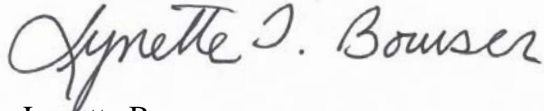
- > John Shinholser from the McShin Foundation provided a presentation to the Council on the history of the disease of substance abuse; the benefits of Recovery Community Organizations, Peer Recovery Training, Peer Leadership Training and awakening the need to empower the recovery community. Several participants in the Peer Recovery Training at the McShin Foundation attended the meeting. Mr. Shinholser stated that Recovery Community Organizations should be able to get reimbursed for support services that they provide. This approach could eliminate the need for a tremendous amount of cost in the criminal justice system and in the community services boards. He requested the Council's support to help in this initiative with the recovery support organizations.

The Chair stated that the Council recognizes the value, importance and the role that recovery support organizations contribute. The Chair thanked Mr. Shinholser for his presentation and stated that he will be included on the Council's future agenda to discuss how the value of recovery community organizations can be capitalized.

VII. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE: TBA

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gibney, and seconded by Mr. Reiner. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette J. Bowser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lynette Bowser