

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
APRIL 9, 2014
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARDS
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Arnold, *Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)*
Jo Ann Burkholder, *Department of Education (DOE)*
W. Curtis Coleburn, *Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)*
Parham Jaber, M.D., *Department of Health (VDH)*
The Honorable M. Keith Hodges, Member, *Virginia House of Delegates*
Jamie MacDonald, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Prevention (VACSB-Prevention)*
Art Mayer, *Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)*
Charlene Motley, *Commission on VASAP*
Jean Mottley, Ph.D., *Department of Corrections (DOC)*
Ron Pritchard, *Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals (VAAP)*
Mellie Randall, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Zandra Relaford, *Department of Social Services (DSS)*
Patricia Shaw, *Virginia Drug Court Association (VDCA)*
The Honorable Christopher Stolle, Member, *Virginia House of Delegates*
Nassima Ait-Daoud Tiouririne, M.D., *University of Virginia, Dept. of Psychiatry and Sciences*
Jim Tobin, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)*
B. L. Weakley, *Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)*
Diane Williams Barbour, *Virginia Certification Board (VCB)*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/SA Council (VACSB-SA)*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Margaret Anne Lane, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Karen Taylor, *Office of Attorney General (OAG)*

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: The meeting was called to order by William Williams, Chair. The meeting began with introductions of those in attendance.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2013, MEETING: A motion was made by Ron Pritchard and seconded by Charlene Motley to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2013 meeting. The motion was carried and the minutes were accepted as presented.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

The Substance Abuse Services Council Report and The Office of Substance Abuse Services Biennial Report: Both reports are required by *Code* and are presented to the Governor and members of the General Assembly. Ms. Lane provided highlights of the two reports.

- The Biennial report is prepared by the Office of Substance Abuse Services (OSAS) to report on substance abuse related activities of DBHDS for the previous two years. The

report provides an accounting of public funding for substance abuse services in Virginia and documents prevention and treatment activities during the past two years. Council members may share the report with their constituents as well as use information in the report for any report that Council members may be preparing. The report gives an overview of the characteristics of the public service system in Virginia; the nature, scope and degree of substance abuse in Virginia; major treatment and prevention activities of DBHDS; definition of substance dependence and substance abuse, and service definitions of the services that are provided in Virginia.

- The Substance Abuse Services Council (SASC) Annual Report contains the recommendations, policies, and goals related to substance abuse and dependence within the state and details how the Council works to coordinate education about these topics and to disseminate information on preventing substance abuse within the state. The report describes the Council; gives an explanation of the substance use issues that have been addressed by the Council, describes enacted legislation that relates to substance use issues, and highlights the major presentations that were given to the Council to aid in their study of these issues during the year.

Ms. Lane stated that both reports are products of a large team of people at DBHDS. The Chair suggested that members review both of the reports and address any comments and questions at the next meeting. The Chair also thanked the DBHDS staff for their work on the reports.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE RELATED LEGISLATION:** Members were provided with a synopsis of substance abuse related legislation from the 2014 session. The document grouped the relevant legislation under major themes that included student/youth, tobacco/smoking devices; miscellaneous drugs; prescription monitoring program; methadone clinic locations; implementation of the Affordable Care Act & Health Care Insurance; VIEW (TANF) legislation; criminal immunity for persons calling first responders to the scene of an overdose, and gambling treatment fund. Ms. Randall and other Council members provided a summary of the legislation pertinent to the Council's interest and the outcome of the relevant legislation.

There was discussion on HB684 marijuana, prescribing, dispensing, etc., as medicine, which failed. Ms. Randall pointed out that the Code already provides prescribers with the option of prescribing marijuana, but since marijuana is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, no Virginia prescribers are prescribing marijuana.

She also suggested that the July meeting of the Council be focused on a discussion of a state level initiative to develop a comprehensive marijuana policy for Virginia in light of events in other states, such as Colorado and Washington.

- **FEDERAL AND STATE BUDGET OUTLOOK:** Ms. Randall stated that there is not a state budget at this time. When the state budget is enacted, there are two initiatives related to

substance abuse services that will be included in the budget. One initiative that passed provides funding to continue a community resource program in Martinsville that provides assistance with employment to individuals who have been in treatment and have established a period of sobriety. The current program has established solid relationships with employers in the area. The program was initially started with a private grant that has expired and money was appropriated to support the continuance of the program.

The other initiative that passed provides funding to support additional peer-run support centers in the state.

On the federal front the funding that was removed from the SAPT Block Grant due to sequestration has been restored. [Since the meeting, staff have learned that of the entire amount that was removed, about \$2 million, only \$1.1 million was restored, to be divided, per SAPT BG law, between prevention and treatment at a ratio of 20% prevention and 80% treatment.] Funding for the public system has been pretty flat since about 2002.

- **2014 MEETING DATES AND TOPICS:** The Chair stated that the next Council meeting will take place on May 28. Subsequent meetings will be held on July 23 and September 24. A tentative agenda has been established for May 28, which will include a report by Henry Harper on the “Reduce Tobacco Use Conference,” and a presentation by Jo Ann Burkholder, “2011-2013 Virginia Adolescent Substance Use: Perception, Use, Discipline and Now What?”.

Ms. Randall suggested a discussion of Marijuana policy at the July 23 meeting and Council members agreed. Dr. Jaberri shared that he and Ms. Randall has participated in a two-day meeting sponsored by SAFE of Chesterfield County on the topic. He expressed the desire to have a well-rounded study of the topic. A subcommittee consisting of Ms. Randall, Dr. Jaberri and Dr. Ait-Daoud Tiouririne was appointed by the Chair to plan the meeting and to propose the study at the July 23 meeting, as this will probably be a multi-year project.

- **SASC on the DBHDS Website:** Ms. Lane reported that DBHDS is revamping its website. She asked Council members for suggestions on improvements to the Council’s page on the website, and she requested that members e-mail their suggestions to her by May 1.
- **Other New Business:** Ms. Lane introduced Mary Ann Bergeron, Executive Director of VACSB, who will be retiring in June. Ms. Bergeron greeted the members and introduced VACSB’s new Executive Director, Jennifer Faison. The Chair thanked Ms. Bergeron for her work with the VACSB and for allowing the Council to use the facility for SASC meetings. The Chair also welcomed Ms. Faison and invited her to make a few remarks.

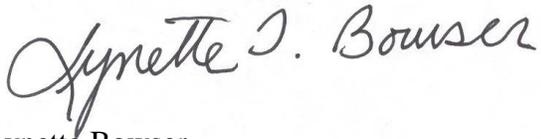
V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **RON PRITCHARD:** Mr. Pritchard informed the Council about the upcoming Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies (VSIAS) and described the line-up of

presenters. Scholarships to the third day of the conference are being offered to anyone who is enrolled in or teaching in substance abuse-related programs in higher education. The conference will be held July 14-16 in Williamsburg. As soon as it is available, Ms. Lane will send Council members an announcement about the conference.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynette J. Bowser". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lynette Bowser