

**MINUTES**  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL**  
**AUGUST 5, 2015**  
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARDS  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stephanie Arnold, *Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)*  
Diane Williams Barbour, *Virginia Certification Board (VCB)*  
The Honorable George L. Barker, *Virginia State Senate*  
Anna Burton, *Department of Corrections (DOC)*  
Henry Harper, *Virginia Foundation of Healthy Youth (VFHY)*  
Parham Jaber, MD, *Department of Health (VDH)*  
Belle Kirby, *Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)*  
Art Mayer, *Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)*  
Charlene Motley, *Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)*  
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 Scott W. Taylor, *Virginia House of Delegates*  
Jim Tobin, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)*  
William H. Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB-SA Council)*  
The Honorable Jennifer Wexton, *Virginia State Senate*  
Eddie Wirt, *Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)*

**GUESTS:**

Denise Thomas-Brown, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA)*  
Gail Taylor, *Office of Behavioral Health Wellness, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*  
Malcolm King, *Office of Child and Family Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*  
Marla Watson, *Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE), Inc.*

**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 INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order by the Council Chair, William H. Williams, Jr. The Chair welcomed members and guests and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2015 MEETING:** A motion was made by Charlene Motley and seconded by Diane Williams Barbour to approve the minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion carried.
- III. OLD BUSINESS:**
  - **UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEROIN ABUSE**

Ms. Randall noted that council members were sent a link to the implementation plan of the task force. The task force has officially concluded although some of the work groups will continue to meet to complete their work. The implementation plan includes recommendations from the five work groups. Ms. Randall provided an overview of the plan and a review of the work groups' recommendations.

- **DISCUSSION, DECISION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2015 SASC ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair thanked the members of the three subgroups for their work in developing the recommendations. Members reviewed a document that detailed the subgroups' discussions and the recommendations generated from those discussions. Council members reviewed, discussed and offered additional suggestions for inclusion in the draft. Council made clear its intent regarding decriminalization or legalization of medical marijuana for specific uses, recommending careful study for further use, and not opposing what has already been passed by the legislature. Council recessed briefly while the final document was prepared. When Council reconvened, members reviewed the document. After discussion, a motion was made by Senator Wexton and seconded by Henry Harper to adopt the recommendations to be included in the 2015 SASC Annual Report. The motion was approved.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

- **DISCUSSION TO SUGGEST AND CONSIDER POTENTIAL TOPICS, PROGRAMS, PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS FOR 2016 SASC MEETINGS.**

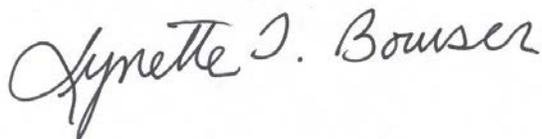
Suggestions included:

- Continued focus on marijuana, including Council's recommendation for a JLARC study
- Medication assisted treatment, including how to make it available in every community
- The REVIVE project
- How addiction treatment is being integrated into the physical healthcare system
- How mental health disorders and substance use disorders are being integrated
- Studies of use of e-cigarettes, "vaping," and powdered alcohol, especially by youth
- Workforce issues in the addictions field

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynette Bowser