

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

**MARY MCMASTERS, M.D., CHAIR
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARDS
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Del. C.E. (Cliff) Hayes, Jr.
Sen. George L. Barker
Sen. Jennifer B. Boysko
Katie Crumble, *Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority*
Nathanel Rudney, *Dept. Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*
Carole Pratt, *Virginia Department of Health*
Arthur Mayer, *Department of Juvenile Justice*
Ashley Harrell, *Department of Medical Assistance Services*
Fran Inge, *Department of Social Services*
Henry Harper, *Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth*
Ron Prichard, *Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals*
Charles (Chuck) Wilcox, *Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals*
Natale Christian, MA, LPC, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board*
Heather Martinsen, MSW, ICPS, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards – Prevention Services*
Marney Bentley, LPC, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board – Substance Abuse Services*
Susan Morrow, MPA, *Virginia Association of Drug Court Professionals (VADCP)*
Brian L. Hieatt, *Virginia Sheriffs' Association*
Mary McMasters, MD, Chair, *Consumer and Advocacy Groups*
Jean Hoyt, *Virginia Department of Health*

GUEST

Peter Breslin, MD, *Verity Psychiatry*
Mary Moore, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
Ava Wagner, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
Jason Burkett, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
Michael Hall, *Tazewell CO S.O.*
Michele Satterlund, *McGuire Woods*
Jen Sayesh, *McGuire Woods*
Rev. Dr. L. E. Dyer, *31st Street Baptist Church, Richmond Church Hill Community*
Ajay Manhapra, MD, *Hampton VA Medical Center*
Radhika Manhapra, MD *Hampton VA Medical Center*
Mark Blackwell, *Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*

COUNCIL STAFF

Kate Marshall, *Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*
Karen A. Taylor, *Office of Attorney General*
Nathanael Rudney, *Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*
Karen L. Dyer, *Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*

I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Dr. McMasters called the meeting to order and introduced the guest speaker for the day. The VCU L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Dr. McMasters opened with presenting the concern with workforce issues.

II. Review and approval of the minutes of May 15, 2109 were not done due to time constraints with guest presenters.

III. New Business

Presentation: Mary Moore, Ava Wagner and Jason Burkett with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs begins with the presentation taking about 45 – 60 minutes with time at the end for questions. A research project was done with the funded support from the Virginia Department of Health in cooperative agreement for Emergency Response Health Crisis Management (CDC – RFA-TP18-1802). A survey was done through VCU Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory (SERL). The research revealed the extent of those in need of substance abuse support and that less than half of those in need seek help. In Virginia there are currently 825 peers trained to be peer recovery support to include certified and non-certified. The problem that exists is that there are more in need of support than receive treatment due to obstacles that the Peer Recovery program encounters. One challenge is that the roles vary from location to location and there is a lack in consistency with the responsibility and training requirements. Ethics were also a key component in the role of peer recovery support in the workplace. Despite the challenges presented, there are findings that this program works well.

IV. Dr. McMasters summarized the challenges to the Peer Support program such as barrier crimes that prevent qualified individuals from becoming peer recovery support/specialists and governing policies which interfere with support. She recognized the need for easier certification and funding for the work force. She noted that these barriers also apply to all Addiction Workforce participants. Additionally, many individuals attend trainings for various Workforce jobs but do not go on to practice in their fields. It is believed these individuals have a need for basic information about the disease of Addiction and are using the various trainings to get it. Our opinion is that basic Addiction education should be made available to the general public.

V. Dr. McMasters reviewed the Code of Virginia section which established the Substance Abuse Council as well as reminding participants about the Freedom of Information Act. Karen Taylor with the Attorney General's office gave more detail.

VI. Karen Taylor reviewed with the council who is able to attend each meeting and that it is open to the public. She also reviewed what is expected for each meeting including agenda, minutes, and the minimum number in attendance to constitute a meeting. She also warned that at any time or place aside from the formal meeting, when contents of the council is discussed between three or more people, it is considered a meeting and documentation must be kept. Minutes and announcements must be updated so that the public can have an opportunity to attend and or be informed. Honorable George Barker posed the question “can members attend via video conferencing?” Karen Taylor replied that it is possible but advised against this since it could lead to not enough people being physically present at the formal meeting.

- VII. Dr. McMasters defined the purpose of the committee per the Code. These include prevention of duplication of functions and adequate coordination of support services. Dr. McMasters noted Senator Warner's Office's concern about the allocation of new funds being provided to fight the Opioid Crisis. As a result the council recognized the need to have a role in ensuring the allotment is applied to Evidence-Based practices.
- VIII. Kate Marshall presented the issue of moving the council to become self-sustaining based on the codes, and separate from VDH. Dr. McMasters presented the idea of a Vice Chair/Secretary combination. Ron Pritchard asked for clarity of the roles responsibility which was explained by Dr. McMasters and Karen Taylor. It was then suggested and agreed upon that the two positions should be separate. Fran Inge asked for clarity on who is able to vote, that she was there in representation of Dept. of Medical Assistance but not on the list as an actual member but a designee, she was cleared by Ms. Taylor to participate in voting. Nathanael Rudney posed the question of Dept. of Behavioral Health's position in the Substance Abuse Council and role in support which was also clarified.
- IX. The position of secretary was presented and volunteers was solicited as a result Marney Bentley, LPC, Virginia Association of Community Services Board – Substance Abuse Services, Charlottesville, VA Region 10 volunteered: Dr. McMaster's nominated, Ron Pritchard 2nd the motion and all voted in favor. No selection for Vice Chair was made at this time, this will be revisited in a future meeting.
- X. The theme for next year was discussed and we received input of thoughts and ideas from Carol Pratt, Chuck Wilcox, Fran Inge, Ashley Harrell, Nathanael Rudney. The primary focus of the suggestion fell on funding. As a result two sub committees were formed: Finance Subcommittee and Vaping Subcommittee to gather and present a status report in preparation for the committee in plans to address the next phase of topics.

Comment from Guest: Guest Michele Satterlund with McGuire Woods provided information regarding funding that is available and stated Alkermes has more details if the council would like to follow up, however the deadline is soon.

- XI. A motion to have a subcommittee focusing on allocation of new grant funds was made by Senator Barker, seconded by Dr. McMasters, all were in favor. Members are volunteers: Senator Barker, Nathanael Rudney, George Parker, Katie Crumble, Chuck Wilcox. The rising number of vaping injuries was discussed and a second subcommittee established to address the issues surrounding this. Members are volunteers: Ron Pritchard, Henry Harper, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. Ron Pritchard made the motion, Dr. McMasters second, all in favor.
- XII. **Guest Comments:** Dr. Ajay Chopra with the V.A. Hospital in Hampton updated the council that they do hire and support peer recovery specialist and support people along with whole health coaches. Jen Sayesh with McGuire Woods reiterated that over 4 million in funding was available and that she and Michele Satterlund have additional information.
- XIII. Identified themes for future meetings are: "Peer Recovery in the Workplace" and "Follow the Money" the focus will be to enhance the workplace environment for individuals seeking employment and those who are identified to train and offer support in the workplace, as well find the funding resources.

XIV. An additional meeting for 2019 may be called if the Subcommittee on Finance feels it needs one due to the rapid movement of some of the grant money.

Meeting adjourned: 12:02 p.m.