

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL

January 11, 2022: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Virtual Meeting: ZoomGov

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Meeting ID: 160 802 6582

Passcode: 120339

Senator John Bell, CHAIR

Victor McKenzie, Jr., SECRETARY

Members Present:

John Bell, *Senator 13th District (Chair)*

Jennifer Boysko, *Senator, 33rd District*

Patrick Hope, *Delegate, 47th District*

Nathanial Rudney

Carole Pratt

Dr. Peter Breslin

Ke'Shawn Harper

Henry Harper

Art Mayer

Charlene Motley

Charles Wilcox

Jessica Lee

Sandy O'Dell

Molly Overstreet

Katie Crumble

Michael Zohab

John Shinholzer

Suzanna Burton

Dillon Wild

Stephen Wade

Alexandra Jansson

Delores McQuinn, *Delegate, 70th District*

Aaron Palmer

Margaret Corum

Tess Hinteregger

Victor McKenzie, Jr, *Executive Director Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia (Secretary)*

Council Members

Senator John J. Bell, Chair

Nathanael Rudney, Liaison

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS John Bell, Senator

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

II. Review of Minutes for September 2, 2021 Meeting.....John Bell, Senator

- a. Senator Boysko made a motion to accept the minutes, Patrick Hope seconded it; vote was unanimous

III. Old Business

- a. Recap of suggested items for General Assembly. Nathanael spoke on two documents available on the DBHDS website. One provides a report on the overview of the presentations over the last year, and some of the recommendations made by council members over the last year. The second is an inter-agency coordination report between DBHDS, DMAS AND DOJ which has some of the general data in regards to substance use treatment across Virginia. This involves collaboration among agencies.

IV. New Business

a. Recap of Past Year..... John Bell, Senator

- i. Funding from the General Assembly for Recovery Residences –\$500,000 then \$10 million from Special Session to try to open it up to recovery funding to help people get into housing.
- ii. Narcan has saved lives, Covid has presented obvious problems
- iii. Casino bill
- iv. Marijuana Legislation

b. Legislative Initiatives

- i. Provide funding for recovery treatment
- ii. Mental Health and dual diagnosis
- iii. Senator Boysko – working in the DOJ space and is putting in a budget amendment to raise the salaries for all the employees, including counselors
 - 1. Asking for support from committee

- a. Senator Bell entered a motion to support the amendment, seconded by Victor McKenzie, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.
- iv. Victor McKenzie shared some legislative initiatives that SAARA is behind. There are three specific needs: Increasing reimbursement from Medicaid for CPRS with Senator Deeds, funding for Recovery Highschool with Senator Morrissey and Delegate Coiner, and increasing funding for State Comprehensive Harm Reduction project.
 - 1. Senator Bell motioned to support SAARA, seconded by Senator Boysko. Motion passed unanimously.
- v. John Shinholser: VARR has bill that says any sober houses/recovery houses referred from CSB has to be made to a VARR certified location. Motion made by Senator Bell to support this bill, seconded by Michael Zohab. Motion passed unanimously.

****Memo to be sent which includes bill number and patrons supporting****

c. Ethics Filing

- i. Nathan will be sending out ethics filing to appointees on this council to disclose conflicts of interest and fill out ethics paperwork

V. Next Meeting

- a. When out of legislative session, schedule in late March, 2022. Hopefully in-person

VI. Public Comment

- a. John Shinholser points out that it might be good idea to host listening sessions for new appointees about all the good work we are doing
 - i. Keep an eye on Sheriff Moser; he is strongly opposed to the Good Samaritan Bill
- b. Charles Wilcox
 - i. Is someone supporting the Marijuana income to be moved to general fund?
- c. Delegate McQuinn
 - i. Suggests identifying friends and opposers early on
- d. Senator Bell
 - i. We need public comment during session; it is extremely important

VII. Adjournment- 1:27 pm