



Thursday, August 17, 2023

Virginia State University
Gateway Hall, Salon A
2808 Martin Luther King Dr
Colonial Heights, VA 23806

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

Attendees Present: Dr. Ivey Green, Chair; Hope F. Cupit, Secretary;
Eldon Burton, Tia Yancey, Bishop Joseph Chase, William Cleveland,
Owen Cardwell, Shannon Kendrick,

Attended via Zoom Keren Charles Dongo, Princess Philomena Desmond- Ogugua, Clarence
Neely

Absent: Rev. Cozy Bailey, Vice Chair; Cameron Patterson, Monica Reid, Chris
Sanchez, Ingrid Granberry Grant, CJ Sailor, Van Wilson, Robert Barnette,
Jr., Toria Edmonds-Howell, Cameron Patterson, Shelia Dixon, Tamara
Walkerson-Dias, Deventae Mooney

The Board did not have a quorum to conduct business.

Adm. Staff: Emma Jensen, Justin Bell

Visitors and
Speakers Secretary of Health and Human Resources -John Little
Senior Advisor of External Affairs- Garrison Coward



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Welcome Remarks, Voting on Minutes and Agenda, Chair Update

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked all members to introduce themselves. Chair Ivey Green mentioned a training orientation for new board members later in August. The training orientation is to be held on August 29, 2023. Member Chase informed the Board that the VAAAB is not listed on the VA State Government website. The Secretary of the Commonwealth is the office to address the issue of the VAAAB Board not being listed.

Chair Ivey Green wants to meet with Mrs. Cupit about preparing another survey to hear from the community regarding concerns and assessing needs. Chair Ivey Green handed out an outline of the annual report for committees to use when drafting sections of the report. She reminded members to jot down future thoughts about issues and concerns that should be addressed for future report content when they meet with their committees. Reverend Bailey and Chair Green will meet with the Governor's office staff about Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion later in August. They will report back to the Board about this meeting and what they were able to add to the discussion.

Justin Bell trained the Board on FOIA and the Code of Conduct. Chair Ivey Green wanted to remind everyone who did not get the training to do the training (FOIA and Code of Conduct) online. This training has to be done every two years.

Black Table Talk Preparation

Toria Edmonds-Howell, Small Black Owned Business Committee

Black Table Talks are scheduled for August. There is a black table talk planned for August 31, 2023. Chair Green stated she was not able to bring the planning sheet that she passed out a few weeks ago. She wanted to inform the Board that most of the committees devised a plan for the Black Table talks. The following committees are ready to present:

- Criminal Justice
- Public Safety
- Small Black-Owned Businesses

Member Chase and Cleveland have been working together to prepare a Black Table talk in Fredericksburg. The prospective date is October.

Dr Ivy suggested the following topics to this group:



- Gun Violence
- Justice in the courts
- Restoration of rights

Subcommittee Breakouts Working Lunch

The following Subcommittees met during lunch:

- Education
- Health and the Environment
- Small Black-Owned Business
- Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Mr. Chase brought up a listening tour to be in the report, it was recommended by Chair Green for that to be done in 2024.

Report from Secretary Littel

Secretary Littel informed the Board that his administration is upon one year of celebrating initiatives in Petersburg and other areas in the Commonwealth.

The highlights that Secretary Littel mentioned to the Board are as follows:

37 partners on the health side;

200 health clinics- Pop up Clinics

- Screenings, vaccines, health check-ups, delivered food
- The administration is looking for Community Health Workers (CHW)

Behavioral Health Initiative – Requested 230 million in additional funding

- Build up 988 as the place to contact for mental health resources
- Using Mobile crisis units and Crisis receiving units to prevent residents from going to the hospital for mental health issues
 - Showcased in Prince William County (Crisis Receiving Center)

Six Pillars

1. Offer same-day care for behavioral health crises
2. Relieve Law enforcement burdens & reduce criminalization of mental health
3. Expand Capacity to serve people
4. Target support for substance use disorders & overdose
5. Strengthen the behavioral health workforce
6. Identify innovations to close capacity gaps

The Secretary provided the following link for the Board to learn more about the Behavioral Health Plan Initiative. <https://www.hhr.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/>



He wanted the Board to know that the population that is seeing more growth in opioid abuse is the African-American community. Three groups of people are underserved in the Commonwealth, namely African-American, Hispanic, and Rural communities. This is mainly due to a lack of available healthcare providers in the area. The State is looking to have universal licensing to solve this shortage in healthcare workers.

The new RFP for medical services focuses on behavioral health services. Some aspects are being redesigned. The areas looking to be redesigned are Medicaid, maternal health/child health, and foster care. African Americans are still not seeing improvement in maternal health. Virginia is second to worst on kinship placement and is looking to improve the mindset behind this bias towards kinship placement.

Discussion ensued among the Board with Secretary Littel.

Partnership for Petersburg Update

Garrison Coward, Senior Advisor of External Affairs

Mr. Coward updated the Board on the Partnership for Petersburg Initiative. This Partnership started with creating a comprehensive approach using a public-private partnership concept. There are 48 different initiatives designed to change the City. Board members can learn more about this initiative at the following website: <https://www.pfp.governor.virginia.gov/achievements/>.

A few of the issues evaluated after the comprehensive needs assessment were:

- Health Outcomes
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Veterans and Affairs

Maternal health is a big problem. Aetna and Anthem were contacted as a result of the maternal health issue, and a brick-and-mortar maternal health hub was created. The hub is called Urban Babies Beginnings. The transportation issue resulted in the opening a multi-mobile transportation center, a one-stop shop for destination points. Food insecurity is also a concern; his group is looking to work with a grocery store to open up in the Petersburg area. While waiting for the store to open, they are working with a mobile outlet grocery store to fill the gap until the brick-and-mortar grocery store opens. Lastly, Mr. Coward mentioned that VCU and VSU are assisting with the pharmaceutical workforce shortage by offering courses that will lead to hiring students to fill the vacancies. Violent crime is another major concern in Petersburg. The public safety team worked with the VA State Police to issue a curfew, increase police manpower, and take guns off the street. They hired two assistant United States Attorneys to prosecute violent repeat offenders in Richmond



versus Petersburg. Petersburg could not handle the workload due to not having enough Jurors to serve.

There is a need for the small business start-up community to grow and thrive in the Petersburg area. A partnership was developed with VIPC that used 500k to issue 20-25k grants to small business start-ups. There were about 25 grants awarded.

Discussion ensued.

President's Welcome

Makola M. Abdullah, Virginia State University President

The University President was not able to welcome the Board at this time.

Subcommittee Reports

During this meeting, the subcommittees did not have an opportunity to report out.

- Education
- Health and the Environment
- Small Black-Owned Business
- Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Public Comment

Mr. Neely asked Mr. Coward a question about the Petersburg Partnership.

Closing Remarks, Adjournment

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair

Dr. Green spoke with Secretary James, who indicated that she could not attend today's meeting. The Board was updated about the release of three board members due to their terms ending, and one member resigned. Dr. Green wanted the members to know that the Board serves until reappointments are made, this is known as the holdover doctrine. Dr. Green encouraged members to go to any board page and click on interested in a Board to complete the application. Eldon Burton noted that this application is for all boards on the website. Dr. Green reminded the members to turn in the report by August 31. Subcommittee meetings may still conduct business virtually. A meeting is scheduled for October with the Governor to discuss the report. The date of this meeting will be sent to the entire Board to be engaged during the convening. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023.



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