

Virginia Addiction and Recovery Council

December 7, 2023 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Physical Location: Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)

10128 West Broad Street #B

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Senator John Bell, Chair

Victor McKenzie, Jr., Secretary

- I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.....** John Bell, Senator, Chair
 - a. We asked all present members to introduce themselves.
- II. Review of Minutes from August 17, 2023**
 - a. Motion to accept. Motion seconded by Victor McKenzie. Vote was unanimously approved.
- III. Old Business**
 - a. Solicitation of nominees for VARC Chair and Secretary
 - i. Motion to table election until new membership is announced.
 1. Motioned seconded.
 2. Motion approved unanimously.
 - ii. Discussed bringing on a co-chair and/or temporary chair.
 - b. Presentations by nominees
 - c. Vote for VARC Chair & Secretary Nominees w/ election determined by plurality
- IV. New Business**
 - a. Presentation- Long Acting Injectables for Substance Use Disorders and Serious Mental Illness- Dr. Douglas Brown MD- Virginia Society for Addiction Medicine Board
 - i. Discussed long acting prescriptions that help with treatment of SUD and mental health illnesses
 - ii. Injectables are not reimbursed for in-patient, doctors are more inclined to prescribe oral
 - iii. Virginia is in a SUD epidemic

1. Injectables can help get people to treatment centers
 - iv. Discussed the value of Peer Recovery Specialists and the need to have them in Emergency Rooms
 - v. A budget amendment will be brought to have long acting injectables reimbursed in in-patient situations \$500,000 first year, 1 MIL next
 1. People are encouraged to write, call their senators to endorse this
 2. HIFT program
 - vi. Discussed PRS and Barrier Crimes
 1. Bill drafted for this year to reduce barrier crimes for adults
 2. Discussed the instability of employment/pay for PRS due to it going through grants
 3. DBHDS has data on amount of people with barrier crimes that have sought employment at DBHDS
 4. SAARA had town meetings and resources surrounding BC's
 - vii. Deaths in VA due to OD's is stable (high, but even) in the last 3 years we have lost 300,000 young to middle aged people
 1. Treatment programs have been shown to work!
 - viii. Discussed benefits of injectables for patients incarcerated
 - ix. Data for escort savings in jails requested
 - x. Discussed the issue of housing when paired alongside BC's
 - xi. Idea: better system for tracking how people with mental health disorders are doing on a day to day basis. (To track medications)
- b. Va Opioid Abatement Authority: grants are available to cities and counties for abatement projects
- c. Proposals for Legislation for VARC to consider for endorsement
 - i. Budget amendment: Delegate Hope
 - ii. Barrier crime: Delegate Coyner
 - iii. Delegate Coyner: legislation around RCO's, budget amendments for treatments in jails
 - iv. Victor McKenzie and Becky Bowers-Lanier: JLARK HB 774 was left in public safety, failed in past, maybe a language adjustment
 - v. Motion to support all proposals; accepted by chair, seconded by Delegate Hope; vote unanimously approved
 1. All proposed legislation asked to be sent in for endorsement
- d. Planning for meetings in 2024
 - i. Proposal to set the upcoming years meeting dates:
 1. April 25, 2024 1-3pm Chair Bell will attend
 2. July 25, 2024 1-3pm
 3. September 26, 2024 1-3pm

4. December 5, 2024 1-3pm

V. Public Comment

a. Discussion about combing through legislation to bring attention to relevant bills

i. Bill tracker to be shared with committee members

VI. Adjournment 2:41 pm