

Virginia Addiction & Recovery Council (VARC)

July 25, 2024 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Physical Location: Virginia Department of Social Services

5600 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

1st Floor Conf Rms

Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair
Del. Adele McClure, Secretary

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.....Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair

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

II. Review of Minutes from April 25, 2024 Meeting.....Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair

Adopted minutes from April 25th. Moved and seconded. Unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

A. Review of SUD related legislation updates following 2024 General Assembly Session - Candace Roney, OSUS Director, DBHDS

- Substance Use Budget Review
 - \$1.08 million the first year and \$210,000 the second year to support the costs of medically monitored high-intensity inpatient services for youth with serious mental illness or SUD
 - \$400,000 the second year for clinical support to Chesterfield Recovery Academy
 - \$100,000 the first year and the second year to continue contract with On Our Own (peer recovery center)
 - \$306,521 the first year and the second year for problem gambling treatment programs
 - \$1.95 million the first year and the second year for grants to VARR members for recovery support services
 - \$1.0 million the first year and \$500,000 the second year to establish year round high schools that are open to students in the early stages of SUD recovery

- Amended language that restricts funding to drug treatment courts to include specialty dockets (e.g., veterans and behavioral health dockets)
- Funding for LAI or ER medication reimbursement was NOT included in final budget
 - Budget item made it into the Senate conference report, but not the House conference report
 - Reluctance on House side due to burden on DMAS

IV. New Business

A. Presentation - Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Legislative Updates - Charlie Lintecum, Director of Operations, OAA (clintecum@voaa.us)

- **OAA Overview**
 - Purpose: to remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth
 - Office opened November 2022
 - Board of Directors is an independent authority chaired by Senator Todd Pillion
- **Update on OAA Grants**
 - Virginia's Settlement Distribution Model
 - 30% direct distributions to cities and counties
 - 15% direct to the Commonwealth
 - 55% to the Opioid Abatement Fund (15% individual distributions to cities and counties; 35% cooperative partnerships of cities and counties; 15% state agency awards; 35% unrestricted)
 - Projected total: \$1.1 billion over 18 years (currently in year 3)
 - Requirements for Use of Settlement Funds - OAA Awards
 - 100% of disbursements must be spent on abatement efforts
 - No reimbursement of previous costs or supplanting or indirect charges allowed
 - Recipients must report outcomes to OAA on an annual basis
 - Programs must be evidence-based for OUD/SUD
 - Grants Information to Date

- City-County Awards: 100 projects totalling \$46 million
 - State Agency Awards: 24 projects totalling \$11 million
- Delegate Cohen: How is the information for K-12 opioid prevention programs communicated to school systems to ensure content is current and effective?
 - Working to create a continuum where school systems can sign up for training and access materials for free - still in the early stages
- Request for additional presentation on treatment programs, specifically the youth-focused IOP program and efforts in regional jails

B. Presentation - The Reentry to Recovery Workgroup: Facilitating Pathways to Success for Incarcerated People with SUD - Dr. Colin M. Greene, Special Advisor on Opioid Response

- Background Information
 - Small decrease in number of fatal drug overdoses in the last 3 years
 - 2020-2023: 9,566 drug overdoses (about 75% fentanyl)
 - 2.1-3.0 million people with OUD nationwide
 - About 65% have received no treatment in the last year
 - About 60% of incarcerated people suffer from SUD
- Reentry to Recovery Workgroup Mission and Goals
 - Reduce supply - interdiction, prescribing practices, proper disposal
 - Reduce demand - prevention of use/unintentional exposure, treatment of OUD/SUD, supporting recovery
 - Reduce harm - overdose fatality prevention, associated medical conditions, social/psychological/spiritual/economic harms
 - Sustain recovery for formerly incarcerated individuals through ongoing treatment, employment, housing, transportation, community, etc.
 - Increase availability of SUD programs across all carceral settings
 - Facilitate direct handoff to community programs upon release
- CMS/Medicaid has begun approving 1115 inmate exclusion waivers to authorize payment for treatment of SUD 90-days prior to release
 - There is a significant backlog of waiver requests - need for additional funding from General Assembly

V. Public Comment (5-minute speaking limit)

1. The GA recently passed a law protecting Kratom in VA; recent studies have shown that Kratom is a promising solution for reducing opioid and alcohol use (although there is a minor addiction profile, so it is not recommended for individuals in SUD recovery)
2. DOC was awarded funding to make a video sharing stories of families in VA who have lost loved ones to overdose - video can be found on DOC YouTube channel
3. Need to reduce stigma in schools around SUD education

VI. Next Meeting – confirmed date: September 26, 2024 at 1 P.M.

VII. Adjournment