

Virginia Addiction & Recovery Council (VARC)

September 26, 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

Meeting commenced at 1:15pm due to technical difficulties. Meeting had to proceed without being able to hear virtual participants on the room's AV system. Closed captioning was utilized. Physical in-person quorum was reached in order to allow for voting.

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

Motion to adopt minutes from July 25th was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

A. Determine schedule for remainder of 2024/early 2025

- One meeting left on December 5th
- Do we need another in January/February if we want to create a legislative endorsement letter?
 - Delegate Hodges recommends an additional meeting after the bill introduction deadline in January to solidify legislative priorities for the 2025 session, which begins on Wednesday, January 8th at noon.

Discussion occurred in council regarding this meeting. Del. Hodges shared primarily that he felt it was needed to be able to endorse any legislation through letter which is what has been done in years past. The next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of December which is too early to have a full bill list so it was proposed to possibly have a meeting the first week of January. Victor and Nathanael will follow up on this possibility and discuss whether this is a viable option.

IV. New Business

A. Presentation – Recovery Services Provided Through VADOC – Si’ Andra Lewis, Statewide Peer Recovery Services Coordinator, VADOC

- Peer Recovery Services support probationers and parolees in their recovery while on supervision. Programs are facilitated by Peer Recovery Specialists with lived experience.

B. Presentation – Recovery Corps – Joel Morgan, Executive Director, Recovery Corps

Presentation did not occur and will be given in December instead

C. Finalize participants for optional visit/tour at Indian Creek Correctional Center in Chesapeake on October 15th at 10:00 A.M.

- Requirements and reminders from Jessica Lee, VADOC:
 - Avoid wearing jeans and bring minimal items
 - ID is required
 - Pat down/security upon arrival
 - Phones are typically not allowed in
 - Please arrive early and be careful not to go to the wrong facility (there is another correctional center nearby)

V. Public Comment (5-minute speaking limit)

- Tiana Vazquez with DBHDS who manages Project REVIVE activities in Virginia presented updates on training modules that have recently become available. She also shared about new Project REVIVE activities including outreach on the VCU campus and the creation of a REVIVE bike which can transport supplies quickly and is an eye-catching way to spread awareness.

VI. Next Meeting – confirmed date: December 5, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.

VII. Adjournment