

Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee (VHESUAC) Members in attendance:

Sade Bowers, James Madison University

(attending virtually from Harrisonburg due to distance from the meeting location)

Susie Bruce, University of Virginia

Cynthia Burwell, Norfolk State University

(attending virtually from Norfolk due to distance from the meeting location)

Rebecca LaBelle, Virginia Cannabis Control Authority

Jill Russett, Christopher Newport University

Ray Tuttle, University of Mary Washington

Sakina Weekes, Virginia Cannabis Control Authority

Virginia ABC Community Health and Engagement staff members in attendance:

Matt Santucci

Kristina Yager

VHESUAC members not in attendance:

Chris Young - VHESUAC Coordinator

Maria Altonen

Craig Branch

Maureen Dalbec

Marc Dawkins

Tom Grane

Sasha Johnson

Dana Schrad

Barabar Storm

Lauren Yerkes

Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting started at 10:05am.
- Chris Young, VHESUAC Coordinator is out of the office due to being sick with Covid-19, so Matt Santucci led the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

- The approval of the April 2025 meeting minutes was skipped due to the VHESUAC Coordinator's absence and will be done at the October 2025 meeting.

VHESUAC Updates

▪ Upcoming Summer Newsletter

The VHESUAC Summer Newsletter will be sent on August 11. Contents will include:

- A link to the Membership Drive survey.
- A brief section on why substance use prevention is important for campuses, including the article "Addressing College Drinking and Drug Use".
- College Alcohol Intervention Matrix (CollegeAIM).
- Cannabis educational resources for young adults (from the CCA), including the Young Adult Toolkit.

Workgroup members recommended the following other ideas for the newsletter:

- Cannabis Control Authority resources, including: cannabis use disorder fact sheet, ancillary effects guidance document. Both are available to be download online.
 - <https://cca.virginia.gov/resources/usedisorder>
 - <https://cca.virginia.gov/resources/ancillaryeffects>
- Upcoming Events:
 - National Fentanyl Awareness Day: August 21
 - National Overdose Awareness Day: August 31
 - DEA National Takeback Day: October 25
 - National Hazing Prevention Week: November 22-26
 - HECAOD'S National Meeting: October 21-23
 - <https://hecaod.osu.edu/national-meeting/>
 - National Gordie Day, Nov 25
- Article in Prevention Science
 - Adoption and Perceptions of the College Alcohol Intervention Matrix (CollegeAIM) Among Professionals in a Higher Education Statewide Prevention Coalition. *Prev Sci* (2025).
 - Helle, A.C., Masters, J., Washington, K.T. *et al.*
 - <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11121-025-01824-9>
- [Virginia ABC's Alcohol Health and Safety Community Dashboards](#)

- **Cannabis Control Authority**

The data from the Impaired Driving Survey is published and can be found [here](#).

- **Membership Drive**

After the VHESUAC membership drive, the size of the Workgroup is 15 people with the assumption that each meeting will be 8-10 people, which the Coordinator thinks is a healthy amount. However, the Executive Council is only four people and the Coordinator would like to find a few more people who are willing to sit on the Executive Council. Workgroup members did not have any recommendations at this time.

Recent VHESUAC Efforts

- **Campus Recognition Program**

Three campuses submitted applications for recognition in the program: Longwood University and Roanoke College.

- Longwood University is being recognized for the third time.
- Roanoke College is being recognized for the first time.
- Hampden-Sydney College is being recognized for the first time.

- **2025 VHESUAC Annual Report**

VHESUAC Coordinator is getting ready to write the FY25 Annual Report that VHESUAC submits to the General Assembly. Workgroup members reviewed a list of topics and sections to be included in the report and no additional topics or sections were recommended for inclusion.

Agency News, Successful Efforts and Other Discussion

- **Virginia ABC**

Virginia ABC successfully conducted its annual YADAPP Conference at CNU last week. Workgroup members said it would be cool for YADAPP attendees to learn how former YADAPP attendees carried on their prevention work into college and how to find college prevention groups on campus.

Virginia ABC recently launched the [Virginia Alcohol Health and Safety Community Dashboards](#).

- **University of Mary Washington**

Received a grant from the Opioid Abatement Authority that will help fund a new position and an intern.

- **University of Virginia**

In the process of the annual student organization registration process that also determines if groups have a new member process.

- **Christopher Newport University**

Received a Virginia ABC Alcohol Education & Prevention Grant for this fiscal year.

- **Cannabis Control Authority**

Sakina Weekes will be the new representative on the Workgroup representing the CCA. The next CCA Board meeting is on August 13 and the next Campus Public Health Advisory Council meeting is on November 3.

- **James Madison University**

JMU is looking at how to extend harm reduction education to all staff and RAs.

Future Meetings

All meetings are held from 10am – 12pm and will be held in-person at Virginia ABC Headquarters in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

October 16, 2025

January 15, 2026

April 16, 2026

Matt Santucci adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.