

# Virginia Addiction & Recovery Council (VARC)

June 12, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Physical Location: Virginia Department of Social Services

5600 Cox Rd

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060 Secretary

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conf Rms

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Meeting ID: 256 970 741 756

Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair Passcode: BcDjQp

Del. Adele McClure,

## 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 10, 2025 Meeting-.....*Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair*

## III. Old Business

A. Opportunity for members of VARC to share summary of legislative changes or budget amendments from their respective districts or agencies- *Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair*

- *Reconvene session to address federal impacts*

B. Opportunity for members of VARC to debrief on changes to federal executive and impact on state agencies, organizations, and constituencies- *Victor McKenzie Jr., Chair*

- *Watching closely for budget changes impacting relationship between DBHDS and VA Recovery Residences (governor line item seems to remove responsibility from VARR and places more on DBHDS)*
- *Concern regarding potential cuts to block grants from SAAMSA?*
- *SB838 VanValkenburg recover residence workgroup*
- *Possibility that Feds are looking at combining the SABG and MHBG into one BG.*
- *Americore has been substantially cut*
- *Recovery Corps is having issues with state matching funds*

#### **IV. New Business**

##### *A. Update on Fentanyl Work Group- Dr. Colin Greene, Special Advisor on Opioid Response*

- *Fatal overdoses in VA: 34.1% drop from 2023; 37.2% drop from 2021 peak*
- *2020-23: 9,791 Virginians killed by Drug OD (about 75% fentanyl)*
- *High risk groups for fatal OD*
  - *Ages 25-64 (85% of total)*
  - *Male > Female*
  - *Black > White > Hispanic >> Asian (varies somewhat by locality)*
  - *Recently released from confinement (ED, hospital, or incarceration)*
  - *Cocaine and methamphetamine users*

*Employment is a powerful tool for keeping people from addiction*

##### *B. Presentation on DBHDS Reorganization- Heather Norton, Deputy Commissioner of Community Services at DBHDS*

#### **V. Public Comment (5-minute speaking limit)**

#### **VI. Adjournment**

#### **BILLS**

- HB1637 (HOPE): Permits people acting on behalf of provider organizations to dispense other opioid antagonists besides Naloxone
- HB1902 (Willett): Directs the Board of Health to report patient level data on patients who overdose on opioids to the Department of Health Professions for use in the Prescription Monitoring Program.
- HB1946 (HOPE): strengthen enforcement for preventing people under the age of 21 from purchasing or possessing tobacco and hemp products
  - Workgroup: develop an enforcement program related to the sale of retail tobacco products or hemp products intended for smoking to individuals younger than 21 years of age.

- HB1955 (GARDNER): removes distinction between cocaine and crack cocaine so that the penalties for selling, purchase or possession are the same
- HB1600: long acting injectables