

Behavioral Health Advisory Council

2104 W Laburnum Ave

Richmond, VA 23227

April 20th, 2016

I. Attendance

Present: Katharine Hunter, Livia Jansen, Margaret Anne Lane, Lisa Wooten, Patricia Parham, Mike Olsen, Rhonda Thissen, Kathleen Levenston, Ron Pritchard, Bruce Crusier, Megan Hodges, Larry Almarode, Jane Ellis, Betsy Lalla, Lynn Lull, Rita Girard, Amanda Rode, Marjorie Yates

Absent: Sherry Confer, Catharine Harrison, Sandra O'Dell, David Conley, Jenny Heilborn, William Hart, Heather Seaman, Becky Sterling, Robin Hairfield, Lynn DelaMer, Lee Peebles

II. Guests

Sarah Rudden, Tom Bannard, Todd Ellis, Will Williams, Regina Whitsett, Joseph Partin

III. Opening of Business

President Amanda Rode called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

IV. Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment

Introductions were made around the room. Katharine Hunter of the Office of Child and Family Services stated her department is applying for a SAMHSA system of care expansion grant. Ron Pritchard mentioned three articles worth reading from a NADACS publication. Lynn Lull announced there are two Peer Recovery Navigator positions open with Magellan.

V. Approval of Minutes

Ron Pritchard moved to accept the minutes as presented, Rhonda seconded. Minutes were approved as written.

VI. Financial Update

Bruce Crusier gave the financial update, there were no questions or comments.

VII. Presentation on Marijuana: Issues and Impact on Virginia

Will Williams, former Chair of the Governor's Substance Abuse Services Council, introduced the topic by explaining that after two years of study, the SASC

recommended that Virginia should not decriminalize or legalize marijuana at this time. Handouts were distributed with more detail. Margaret Anne Lane gave more background and introduced the three guest presenters; Regina Whitsett, Detective Joseph Partin and Marjorie Yates.

VIII. Agency Updates

Rhonda Thissen announced that DBHDS received a one year planning grant to implement certified behavioral health clinics in VA.

Mike Olsen stated that mental health first aid trainings are continuing. They also hired a suicide prevention program coordinator, Nicole Gore. There is no update for MHFA re-certification.

Megan Hodges announced that NAMI VA has a new website that includes an updated resource center, and youth and young adults section.

Ron Pritchard announced the VSIAS conference coming up.

Rita Girard from MHA of Fredericksburg announced they are having their annual walk in May. Additionally they launched a new teen depression support group two weeks ago.

Stacey Gill of DBHDS announced their criminal justice alternative transportation pilot has been going well since implementation in November 2015. Instead of a police escort the magistrate can deem alternative transport is appropriate when an individual is taken into custody. The state has contracted with a security company that transports individuals without further traumatization. The biggest obstacle has been funding and they would like to expand it to an additional catchment area south of Mount Rogers CSB.

IX. Leadership Academy Update

Amanda Rode stated they are attending monthly conference calls and are in the process of strategic planning and how to evaluate and define the Council mission. They will have more to announce at the next meeting; the consultant they are working with may be able to come to a meeting in the near future.

X. Anti-Stigma Campaign Update

Ron Pritchard proposed a public awareness campaign and suggested we have more of a discussion about it at the next meeting, i.e, institutional and societal denial. The primary goal would be to change the dialogue, the secondary goal may lead to a

move towards decriminalization. He suggested we create role play skits to send the message.

XI. Adjournment

Did not have quorum by end of meeting; ended at 1:49pm.