

Behavioral Health Commission- Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 - 2:30 p.m.

Eanes Pittman Public Safety Training, 6610 Public Safety Way, Chesterfield, VA 23832

Members Present

Senator R. Creigh Deeds, Chair

Senator Lashrecse Aird

Senator Tara Durant (virtual)

Senator Barbara Favola

Delegate Patrick Hope, Vice Chair

Delegate Carrie Coyner

Delegate Joseph Obenshain

Delegate Vivian Watts

Delegate Rodney Willett

Members Absent

Delegate Ellen Campbell

Senator Russet Perry

Delegate Adele McClure

Call to order and opening remarks- Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Roll call- Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Nathalie Molliet-Ribet gave an overview of the BHC agenda and introduced Sheriff Leonard.

Sheriff Karl Leonard and Director of Behavioral and Mental Health in Chesterfield County Jail Kerri Rhodes spoke about the prevalence of individuals with serious mental illness in jails. They discussed the gaps in community-based mental health resources that can precipitate arrests among individuals with a mental illness, and the general lack of jail-based services available to provide necessary treatment. Sheriff Leonard and Ms. Rhodes provided an overview of the HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively) program, which is available in the Chesterfield County jail and is the only such program in Virginia, and how it is benefitting inmates with a behavioral health disorder. Lastly, they answered members' questions.

Executive Director Nathalie Molliet-Ribet presented the updated 2024 workplan that was approved by the Executive Committee on June 3, 2024, and gave an overview of the different initiatives that staff could take on in 2024. Members voted unanimously to adopt the updated 2024 workplan. Lastly, Nathalie presented the BHC's most recent performance metrics, which capture to what extent legislation and budget amendments recommended by the BHC were adopted during the 2024 legislative session.

Several individuals offered public comments.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Commission meeting will be on July 9, 2024.