

Behavioral Health Commission- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.

Senate Room A

General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Patrick Hope, Vice Chair

Delegate Carrie Coyner

Delegate Ellen Campbell

Delegate Adele McClure (virtual)

Delegate Chris Obenshain

Delegate Vivian Watts

Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Senator Lashrecse Aird

Senator Tara Durant

Senator Barbara Favola

Senator Russet Perry

Members Absent

Delegate Rodney Willett

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

Roll call- Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Nathalie Molliet-Ribet introduced Abigail Cornwell, the newest BHC staff, and provided an overview of the presentations on the meeting agenda.

Claire Mairead presented the results of the BHC staff study on *Minimizing assaults on law enforcement & avoidable arrests of individuals in crisis*. Claire provided information about the prevalence of assaults on law officers and corresponding arrests, the impact of assaults and arrests on law enforcement individuals in crisis, the availability and effectiveness of training on mental health provided to law enforcement in Virginia, the importance of clinicians in responding to mental health crises, and the impact of inadequate system resources on assaults and treatment pathways. She also presented members with a recommendation and three options and answered their questions throughout her briefing.

Lisa Jobe-Shields, Behavioral Health Division Director at the Department of Medical Assistance Services, briefed members on the agency's Behavioral Health Services Redesign efforts, which were directed in the 2024 Appropriation Act. She gave an overview of the projects and services that will be redesigned and discussed the four priorities that will be addressed. Lisa discussed the timeline for these priorities and the engagement opportunities provided to stakeholders. Lastly, she spoke about the Serious Mental Illness (SMI) 1115 waiver that is currently under development at DMAS.

Jen Piver-Renna, Deputy Director of the Joint Commission on Health Care, provided a briefing on the *Performance of health care workforce programs* in Virginia. She listed the specific programs that were the main focus of the study and provided information on program funding and characteristics, such as eligibility criteria. Jen discussed monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programs. Lastly, she discussed the issues that the programs face to improve effectiveness, such as data collection.

Harrison Hayes, Executive Director at the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority (VHWDA) provided an overview of provider shortages, changes to the Virginia's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) programs, and the Community Health Work behavioral health training program. Harrison also discussed the Graduate Medical Education (GME) supplemental funding data. He answered members' questions throughout the presentation.

Christina Kimbrough, Founder of Free Life LLC, provided a briefing for the Peer Perspectives input group on wellness and recovery.

Several individuals offered public comments.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Commission meeting will be on November 12, 2024 in the General Assembly Building.

Delegate McClure participated virtually due to a medical condition.