

MINUTES
STATE MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES BOARD

January 13, 2009
DMHMRSAS's Central Office
Richmond, VA

Members Present: Daniel E. Karnes, Chair; Ruth G. Jarvis, Vice Chair; Andrew Goddard, Cheryl Ivey Green, Catherine M. Hudgins, and Jennifer M. Little.

Members Excused: Mary J. McQuown, Ananda K. Pandurangi and Kathryn A. Smith

Staff: Ken Batten, Director, Office of Substance Abuse Services
Wendy Brown, Policy Analyst, Office of Planning & Development
Jewel Crosby, Executive Secretary, State MHMRSAS Board
Charline Davidson, Director, Office of Planning & Development
Heidi Dix, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner
Paul Gilding, Director, Office of Community Contracting
Jim Martinez, Director, Office of Mental Health Services
Meghan McGuire, Director, Office of Communications
Mellie Randall, Manager, Office of Substance Abuse Services
James Reinhard, Commissioner, (via phone)
Michael Shank, Director, Office of Mental Health Services
Teja Stokes, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Public Relations/Quality Improvement
Frank Tetrick, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Supports & Services
Ruth Anne Walker, Legislation Manager, Office of Legislation

Others: Jennifer Faison, Public Policy Manager, VACSB
Bill Fuller, Senior Community Housing Officer, Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA)
Jane Hickey, Senior Assistant Attorney General/Chief, Health Services Section, Office of the Attorney General
Shea Hollifield, Deputy Director, Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
Sherry Rose

Call to Order: Daniel Karnes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming the newest board members, Andrew Goddard and Jennifer Little. The Chair then called for introductions by all in attendance.

Agenda: *Upon motion by Ruth Jarvis and seconded by Catherine Hudgins, the board unanimously approved the January 13, 2009 Agenda as presented. 6-Yes; 0-No.*

Minutes: *Upon motion by Catherine Hudgins and seconded by Ruth Jarvis, the board unanimously approved the revised minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting as corrected. 6- Yes; 0-No.*

Public Comments: Sherry Rose voiced concerns regarding the board's recommendation to review the CSB admissions criteria, policies and procedures. She asked that the department use consultant capacity to implement an aggressive oversight over lines of businesses of all state-wide CSBs.

Ms. Rose also shared concerns regarding a consumer in the Fairfax Falls Church catchment area that has been in seclusion and restraints for twenty years at Western State Hospital. She asked that the board look into the issues.

Catherine Hudgins, board member, thanked Ms. Rose for sharing her comments and requested that the comments be referred to staff to respond on behalf of the board.

Daniel Karnes informed the board that they should be in receipt of a letter from parents and friends of Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC) and asked for input and discussion.

Catherine Hudgins informed the board that she has received letters regarding Central Virginia Training Center and Southeastern Virginia Training Center. Ms. Hudgins asked that staff send an acknowledgment response on behalf of the board.

**Report of the Policy
Development and
Evaluation
Committee:**

Wendy Brown reported on behalf of the committee chair, Ruth Jarvis. The committee met at 9:00 a.m. before the regular board meeting. The committee welcomed new board member, Andrew Goddard. The members discussed housekeeping matters and the proposed amendment to policy 1015 (Co-occurring Disorders). The amended policy was proposed consistent with action recommended by the Board in 2008. The Board had authorized the committee to draft an amendment to Policy 1015 and distribute it for field review noting that the Board intends to rescind Policy 1013 (Facility and Community Alcohol and Other Drug Services). Any concerns related to the rescission of Policy 1013 would be addressed in the revised Policy 1015. Mellie Randall, Office of Substance Abuse Services, discussed proposed revisions to the co-occurring policy with the committee. The committee agreed to adopt the revised policy to send it out for field review, and will offer recommendations at the next board meeting. Therefore, no action from the full board was needed.

**Report of the
Planning and**

Budget Committee: Charline Davidson reported on behalf of the committee chair, Daniel Karnes. The committee met at 8:00 a.m. before the regular board meeting. The committee welcomed new member, Jennifer Little. The Planning and Budget Committee discussed the Governor's budget proposal to close the Commonwealth Center for Children Center and Adolescents (CCCA), Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC) and the adolescent unit at Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute in Marion.

**Commissioner's
Report:**

Dr. Reinhard, via phone, reported to the board and provided updates on the proposed budget amendments and facility closures. Dr. Reinhard touched on the Governor's budget amendments and shared that staff is in the process within a short time period beginning to implement the plans of the proposed cuts. He shared that the most significant impact is that of the proposed closure of SEVTC, CCCA and the Adolescent Unit at SWMHI. Dr. Reinhard shared that he along with Secretary Tavenner met with the staff at the facilities proposed for closure. He indicated that there were large turnouts for both meetings and, as expected, significant resistance to the closures. Dr. Reinhard stated that he recognizes that there will be great challenges ahead to accomplish the task in a thoughtful and effective manner. He shared with the board members that there will be an Advisory Committee and Work Groups established to transition consumers into the community.

Heidi Dix, Deputy Commissioner, presented an overview of information to the board on the changes in the delivery of services and programs in the department. She shared information on the mental health system reform, the ongoing need for attention to the large, aging state facility infrastructure, the need for adult mental health beds and the need for training center beds.

**Staff/Legislative
Updates:**

Ruth Anne Walker, Legislation Manager, provided legislative updates to the board and noted that there were not as many of bills as this time last year. Ms. Walker distributed handouts with a short list of current bills assigned to the department as of January 12. She indicated that this was a carryover year and she would continue to send bill updates to board members. Ms. Walker pointed out the name change bill on the list and shared that it was one of two agency bills along with SB 818 (Substance Abuse). She informed board members that Ken Batten, Director of Substance Abuse Services, would include information in his presentation on the SB 818.

Ms. Walker revealed the new proposed name of the department as “Behavioral Health and Developmental Services” (BHDS). She shared that the new name does not promote stigma or reinforce negative stereotypes, and allows room to grow into other areas, like autism and other developmental disabilities. The new name would also focus on the services the department provides, rather than on the disabilities we address.

Ms. Walker reviewed the board’s workplan and shared background and the purpose of the workplan for the new board members. She noted that the plan indicated “intellectual disabilities” as the priority area identified for the month of April as it relates to the Comprehensive State Plan. The board also identified the Wounded Warrior program as an informational topic to hear in April.

Jim Martinez, Director, Mental Health Services, provided a summary list of recommendations from the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform.

**Board Liaison
Report:**

Ruth Jarvis reported that she attended the Hampton-Newport News CSB legislative breakfast along with board member, Mary McQuown. She stated that the breakfast was well represented by local officials and state legislators. Mrs. Jarvis also shared that she attended several meetings in her area on the closure of Southeastern Virginia Training Center.

**Presentation by
Office of Substance
Abuse Services:**

Ken Batten, Director, Office of Substance Abuse Services presented on substance abuse services progress implementing the Comprehensive State Plan 2008-2014. Mr. Batten also updated the board on SB 818 relating to opiate addiction treatment providers’ service fee.

**Presentation on
Housing:**

Shea Hollifield, Deputy Director, Division of Housing, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) presented information on programs at DHCD utilized by CSBs, Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the National Housing Trust Fund. Ms. Hollifield distributed program guidelines literature for FY 09 to attendees.

Bill Fuller, Senior Community Housing Officer, Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) presented information on programs at VHDA utilized by CSBs, housing in money follows the person project, Virginia’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, Housing Solution Work Group and Accessible house-finding functions of accessva.

Michael Shank, Director, Community Support Services, Office of Mental Health Services, shared information on housing affordability issues, Auxiliary Grant Portability, SRO Housing with Supports and Housing First.

Re-Election of Officers:

At the December 2, 2008 meeting of the board, the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for 2009, nominating Daniel Karnes as Chair and Ruth Jarvis as Vice Chair. As reflected in the current board by-laws, the Nominating Committee shall offer its slate of candidates at the first regular meeting of the calendar year. The two other members of the nominating committee were not able to attend the January 13 meeting. Therefore, Ruth Jarvis, the other member moved on the Committee's behalf that she be elected as Vice Chair. Daniel Karnes called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing no additional nominations from the floor, the board unanimously elected Ruth Jarvis as Vice Chair.

Daniel Karnes requested the newly elected Vice Chair assume the Chair temporarily for the purpose of the election of the new Chair. Ruth Jarvis, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to elect Daniel Karnes as Chair. Ruth Jarvis called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing no additional nominations, the board unanimously elected Daniel Karnes as Chair.

VACSB Update:

Jennifer Faison, VACSB, Public Policy Manager, reported on behalf of the VACSB. Ms. Faison updated the board on the VACSB's position on the budget action in the proposed closure of the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents, the adolescent unit at Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute and proposed closure of Southeastern Virginia Training Center.

Ms. Faison provided updates on the possible revenue enhancements from the Federal Government, the VACSB Budget priorities, changes to the proposed FY2010 Performance Contract and VACSB's participation in future MHMRSAS State board meetings. Ms. Faison shared the schedule on the legislative budget hearings and reminded the board regarding the Coalition Rally scheduled for Monday, January 19. She also reminded board members of the VACSB Legislative conference scheduled for January 20-21, 2009 at the Omni Hotel in Richmond.

Other Business & Adjournment:

Daniel Karnes provided the announcement to the board on the new role of the past Deputy Commissioner, Ray Ratke. Secretary Marilyn Tavenner has formally appointed Mr. Ratke as full-time Special Advisor for Children's Services.

Daniel Karnes requested a copy of the revised organizational chart from the Department. Mr. Karnes informed the board that Heidi Dix has been hired as the full-time Deputy Commissioner replacing Ray Ratke.

Mr. Karnes confirmed receipt of the response letter from the Inspector General regarding the request from the board last month requesting the Inspector General to conduct a study on CSB admission criteria. Mr. Karnes indicated that the Inspector General has requested to be included on the agenda at a future meeting to discuss the particulars of the requested study. It was decided that this would be added to the April 2009 agenda for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting of the board will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. The location has not been determined.

Submitted by:

Daniel E. Karnes, Chair

Jewel Crosby, Secretary