

STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Monday, October 15, 2018

2:00 p.m.

DBHDS, Central Office, 1220 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23218

MINUTES

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia and Article 5 Item J of the State Board Bylaws, one member called in remotely due to being more than 60 miles from the primary meeting location.

Members in attendance: Paula Mitchell, Chair (by phone); Beth Hilscher, Vice Chair; Jack Bruggeman; Becky Graser; Calendria Jones; Sandra Price Stroble.

DBHDS Staff in attendance: Cheryl DeHaven, Acting Director of Recovery Services; Ruth Anne Walker, Director of Regulatory Affairs.

I. Call to Order

At 2:40 p.m. Paula Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum of members was present in Richmond.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Mitchell confirmed all members had the meeting information packet and that the only business to be taken up at the meeting would be one item regarding 12VAC35-250 Peer Recovery Specialists.

III. Regulatory Action Item: Initiate Final Stage for Permanent Adoption of [12VAC35-250](#) Peer Recovery Specialists

Ms. Mitchell stated that board members had received the final draft as amended with a request to initiate the final stage for the new peer recovery specialist regulation. She asked if there was any discussion.

Calendria Jones asked if there would be any changes to the qualifying factors to be a peer. Ruth Anne Walker stated there were no changes in the action before the board to change any qualifying factors. Ms. Jones stated her main concern was that individuals

were being trained, certified, and registered to be peer recovery specialists, but were having difficulty being hired. She wondered if this regulatory action was a vehicle to give a statement of that concern. Ms. Walker suggested a letter from the board to Governor Northam might be an appropriate vehicle to highlight concerns; however, confirming the current status of various efforts first with the board liaison (both legislative and other) would be important.

Discussion continued among members on the topic of the current status of peer recovery specialists in Virginia – their importance in the behavioral health system, the steps forward with these regulations and the Medicaid ARTS Waiver, and issues that may keep peers from being hired, i.e. barrier crimes. Becky Graser stated that there are a lot of openings, but backgrounds are a problem to be able to work. Discussion included the possibility of a legislative ‘carve out’ for such crimes that are part of a peer’s lived experience.

Cheryl DeHaven drew the board’s attention to the Joint Commission on Health Care’s (JCHC) meeting earlier in the day and in particular, to a presentation given at the meeting that touched on these issues

(<http://jchc.virginia.gov/4.%20Addiction%20Relapse%20Prevention%20Study%20FINAL.pdf>). This information of the discussion at JCHC reinforced the need to confirm with the DBHDS legislative liaison the current status of various efforts on peer-related issues.

Ms. Mitchell called for the vote on the business before the Board. A motion was approved by Beth Hilscher, and seconded by Jack Bruggeman. The regulation and initiation of the final stage were approved unanimously, with one abstention by Ms. Graser due to a possible conflict of interest.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board will be on December 4-5, 2018.