

## MINUTES

State Mental Health, Mental Retardation  
And Substance Abuse Services Board  
January 26, 2005  
Richmond, Virginia

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by the Acting Chair, Hunt Gunter.

**Members Present:** Linda Bartlett, Victoria Huber Cochran, Hunt Gunter, Dan Karnes, Ruth Jarvis, Elaine McConnell, and Prince Rivers

**Excused:** David Trinkle, Garnett Robinson

**Staff Present:** Jane Hickey, Wendy Brown, Jim Martinez, Charline Davidson, Paul Gilding, Margaret Walsh, Marlene Butler and Dr. James Reinhard.

**Others Present:** Linda Fisher, Barbara Barrett, Mary Ann Beall, The Rev. William Yolton.

**Agenda** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Minutes** The minutes of the August 12-13, 2004 meeting were approved as printed.

**Nominating Committee** The Chair appointed Ruth Jarvis and Victoria Huber Cochran to serve with him on the committee to nominate members for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

**Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**Policy 1029** The Board approved the distribution of draft replacement Policy 1029, *Definitions of Serious Mental Illness, Serious Emotional Disturbance and At Risk of Serious Emotional Disturbance*, for field review and comment.

**VACSB** Barbara Barrett, Chair of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, presented the Board with the association's 2004 annual report. She also reported on their budget requests or action steps for 2005-2006. The next VACSB Conference will be held May 11-13 in Virginia Beach.

**Conflict Of Interest** Jane Hickey, of the Attorney General's Office, led a training session on the Conflict of Interests Act.

**Commissioner's Report** Commissioner Reinhard reported on Governor Warner's Funding Initiatives and the Department's presentation to the Capital Outlay and Health and Human

Resources Subcommittees of the Virginia House Appropriations Committee. The later consisted of:

1. ongoing planning efforts to restructure Virginia's public delivery system for mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services;
2. determining the future size and role of state facilities;
3. The current status/condition of state facilities;
4. Immediate and future capital outlay requirements.

He described the deteriorating condition of many of the buildings due to deferred maintenance and capital improvement requirements.

**Motion** Elaine McConnell made a motion which was seconded and approved to direct a letter to the General Assembly requesting that a systematic approach be made to get the most accurate value of excess land tied to plans for future needs and use of the properties; and to address the critical needs and safety issues of the aging facilities; and that this be done over a three year period devoting a specified amount of money each year.

**Human Rights** Margaret Walsh, Director of the Office of Human Rights, presented an overview of the Office, its staff and responsibilities.

**Regulations** The Board approved the recommendation to revise the *Rules and Regulations to Assure the Rights of Individuals Receiving Services from Providers of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services* based on the periodic review and authorized the submission of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to initiate the regulatory process to amend the regulations.

**By-Laws** The Board approved minor changes in the By-Laws of the State Human Rights Committee.

**Staffing** Joyce Bozman, Chair of the SHRC, spoke to the Board about the growing number of service providers being licensed by the Department. These providers come under the Human Rights Regulations resulting in increased workloads for the Human Rights Advocates throughout the State.

**Motion** The Board approved a recommendation supporting the addition of five additional Human Rights Advocates provided that the funding can be found.

**NVMHI** The Board received a letter from Lynn DeLacy, Director of the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, concerning establishment of a Center of Excellence at the facility.

**Motion** The Board approved a resolution in support of the concept of the establishment of a Center of Excellence at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute.

**Conferences** Victoria Huber Cochran reported on her attendance at the State Human Rights Committee Meeting in Staunton, the VACSB Legislative Conference and the Governor's Conference in Richmond.

Dan Karnes report on his attendance at the VACSB conferences in Charlottesville and Richmond.

**Election of Officers** Upon nomination by the nominating committee, the Board elected B. Hunt Gunter as Chair and Victoria Huber Cochran as Vice Chair.

**Committees** The Chair appointed to the Evaluation Committee - Victoria Cochran, Chair; Dan Karnes, Ruth Jarvis and David Trinkle.

Appointed to the Planning, Budget and Public Education Committee - Hunt Gunter, Chair; Linda Bartlett, Prince Rivers, Elaine McConnell and Garnett Robinson.

**Meeting Dates** The Board set the months of April, September, and December as meeting months. A poll will be taken to ascertain the best dates (s) for members.

**Adjournment** There being no futher business, the meeting of the Board was adjourned.

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B. Hunt Gunter, Chair

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Marlene Butler, Secretary