

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

October 5, 2006

Doubletree Hotel - Charlottesville  
Charlottesville, Virginia

**Members Present:** Victoria Huber Cochran, **Chair**; Daniel E. Karnes, **Vice-Chair**;  
Linda S. Bartlett; Cheryl Ivey Green; B. Hunt Gunter; Catherine M.  
Hudgins; Ruth G. Jarvis and David B. Trinkle.

**Member Absent:** Kathryn A. Smith

**Staff:** James S. Reinhard, Commissioner  
Raymond R. Ratke, Deputy Commissioner  
Charline Davidson, Director, Office of Planning and Development  
Paul Gilding, Director, Office of Community Contracting  
Martha J. Mead, Director, Office of Legislation and Public Relations  
Ruth Anne Walker, Office of Legislation and Public Relations  
Jane Hickey, Office of the Attorney General  
Jewel Booker, State Board Secretary

**Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.  
The newest Board member, Supervisor Catherine Hudgins was  
introduced and welcomed to the State Board. The Chair requested  
attendees introduce themselves prior to proceeding.

**Agenda:** Upon a motion by Hunt Gunter and seconded by Ruth Jarvis, the  
Board unanimously approved the October 5, 2006 agenda as  
presented.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 22, 2006 meeting were approved as  
submitted. A motion was made by Hunt Gunter and seconded by  
Ruth Jarvis.

The minutes of the Policy Development & Evaluation and Planning  
& Budget Committees were accepted as presented.

**Public Comment:** Mark Blackwell, Executive Director, Substance Abuse Addiction  
and Recovery Alliance (SAARA) gave public comments. Mr.  
Blackwell recognized the Department for its efforts to increase the  
priority of treatment for substance use disorders. He stated that the  
meeting and agenda speaks for itself regarding the Board's efforts to  
raise the awareness of what needs to be done to address the needs of  
consumers.

Mr. Blackwell also recognized the VACSB for putting together a very aggressive agenda for the upcoming General Assembly with regard to funding for substance use disorder. He stated that substance abuse services still remain seriously under-funded, however SARRA still plays a lead role in advocating for resources.

### **Report of the Evaluation Committee**

Daniel Karnes, Committee Chair, reported for the Committee. The Committee recommended the adoption of revised policy #1018 – serving older adults with mental illnesses, mental retardation, or substance use disorder. Upon motion from David Trinkle and seconded by Hunt Gunter, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the revised policy #1018.

Mr. Karnes summarized contents of the draft Policy 1041 – services for individuals with mental illnesses, mental retardation, or substance abuse disorders who are or at imminent risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The Committee distributed the revised draft policy to the Board with the recommendation that it be disseminated for field review and presented to the full Board for action at the December meeting. The committee will submit the draft policy to the Forensic Special Populations Work Group; the Departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice, and Criminal Justice Services; the State Compensation Board; the Virginia Sheriffs Association and Police Chiefs Association; Regional Jail Administrators and Juvenile Detention Facility Administrators; the Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy; and members of the Chief Justice’s Mental Health Reform Commission.

### **Report of Planning and Budget Committees**

The committee did not meet.

### **Board Liaison Report**

Linda Bartlett reported that she received a call from a consumer sharing concerns regarding care and a call from a psychiatrist regarding the issue of the loss of state hospital beds.

Dan Karnes reported that he would be attending a meeting at Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare on Thursday, October 13. Mr. Karnes shared highlights of his visit to the Southwestern Mental Health Institute (SWMHI) on September 18 with the Governor, Secretary

Tavener, Victoria Cochran and the Commissioner as part of the Governor's plan to hold cabinet meetings outside of Richmond. The Governor commented that the visit would not be his last and thanked the SWVMHI staff for their hard work. The consumers and staff were elated and appreciative of the Governor's visit. Ms. Cochran acknowledged that the visit was very successful.

Ruth Jarvis reported that she received an invitation to visit the Portsmouth CSB Board. Ms. Jarvis acknowledged she visits with the Norfolk CSB quite frequently. Recruiting case management staff remains a problem in her region and recognizes that everyone is experiencing the same problems when consumers are released to the community. The Executive Director at the Norfolk CSB has taken steps to contact Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University to assist with alleviating case management vacancies. The Norfolk CSB Executive Director is working with Norfolk State University faculty on a case management curriculum.

David Trinkle reported that he is in touch with the Mental Health Association of Roanoke and Blue Ridge Child and Adolescent Services.

Victoria Cochran reported that she had attended a meeting at New River Valley CSB with community stakeholders to discuss the concerns of local emergency services and commitment issues. Ms. Cochran shared that she had made contact with the Director of Southwestern Virginia Training Center (SWVTC) to visit the facility.

## **VACSB Report**

Will Williams, VACSB Substance Abuse Council Chair, updated and thanked the board for the opportunity to share the work of the Council. One of the tasks of the Council is to assist in providing strategic talking points for the VACSB budget proposals. They are also working on getting the word out and promoting a stigma reduction campaign. The Council developed a monthly newsletter, Champions for Recovery for distribution statewide to communicate to stakeholders. Mr. Williams acknowledged that there are a number of stakeholders willing to assist them in their efforts in putting individuals in the right level of care and reviewing the barriers of recovery, one being the barriers of crime, and those who do not qualify for housing or other resources due to their criminal record and their addiction. They agree that the diversion concept works well in their recovery efforts and reported that in October 2005, in their diversion initiative, they diverted 879 people from jail.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Reinhard stated that there was no formal presentation nonetheless; he gave an overview on Transformation and funding initiatives.

The Commissioner shared points of the Transformation initiatives that included the replacement four state facilities bringing them up to state of the art. Eastern State Hospital received construction and planning funding. Western State Hospital, Central Virginia Training Center and Southeastern Virginia Training Center received planning dollars.

The Commissioner acknowledged that there is a crisis for beds all over the country and determining how many beds are needed across the Commonwealth remains challenging. The same is true for the training centers. On October 12 & 13, the Commissioner will meet with the Chief Justice's Commission on Mental Health Law Reform.

## **Recognitions**

The Board recognized the Gemeinschaft Home, a 60-bed substance abuse treatment facility that provides a transitional therapeutic community program for persons being released from prison. The program is located in Harrisonburg, VA. The Gemeinschaft Home is a replica of the Delancey Street model in San Francisco. A resolution was read and presented to Jennie Amison, Executive Director and Loleata Darcus, Program Manager of the Gemeinschaft Home recognizing the work of the Gemeinschaft Home.

The Board chair called for a five-minute break at 3:27 p.m. with the meeting reconvening at 3:37 p.m.

## **Annual State Human Rights Committee Report**

Dr. Michael Marsh, Chairman, State Human Rights Committee, and Dan Karnes, State Board Vice Chair recommended appointment of Mr. Joseph G. Lynch, LCSW to the State Human Rights Committee. Mr. Karnes shared a brief bio on Mr. Lynch.

The Board appointed Joseph G. Lynch (Term - July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009). Motion was made by Hunt Gunter and seconded by David

Trinkle to appoint Joseph G. Lynch to the State Human Rights Committee.

**Substance Abuse**

The Governor's Substance Abuse Services Council and the Office of Substance Abuse Services provided a presentation from the Substance Abuse Services Council Annual Report and Interagency State Plan. Patty Gilbertson, Ken Batten, Mellie Randall, Sterling Deal, Wayde Glover, and Hope Merrick shared a synopsis of various topics including the Co-Occurring State Incentive Grant (COSIG) Grant, Project Remote, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant and Prevention services.

Under Section §37.2.203.3 the State Board is authorized to review and comment on all federal funding requests for the Department, therefore the Board Chair recommended approval of the COSIG and the SAPT Block grant. A motion was made by Daniel Karnes and seconded by Hunt Gunter to review and approve the COSIG and SAPT grant submissions.

**Staff Update**

The Board was also reminded of the next board meeting scheduled on December 8 in Fredericksburg from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Presentation topics would focus on Mental Retardation, Early Intervention and Autism.

Martha Mead reminded state board members of the John Donovan Walking Trail dedication ceremony scheduled at Central State Hospital on October 18, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. Invitations were sent by the Central State Hospital staff.

Martha reminded Board members of the upcoming Board meeting dates that were set at the Board Retreat in August and asked that members mark their calendars accordingly.

Martha Mead reported that an Annual Executive Summary of the Board's activities has been prepared and submitted to the Governor's Office and General Assembly on behalf of the Board. The document has been printed as a legislative document and additional copies were available to Board members.

Martha reported that Ruth Anne Walker, Legislation & PR Manager has worked on developing a communications plan, scheduling events, and has formed a Central Office public relations team focusing on how the Central Office can promote the successes of the System Transformation Initiative.

Victoria Cochran informed the Board that it needs to designate a State Board member to serve as liaison with the Mental Health Planning Council. The Council's future meeting dates are October 27 & 28 in Virginia Beach and December 6 in Henrico. Ruth Jarvis agreed to attend the October 27& 28 meeting of the Mental Health Planning Council in Virginia Beach.

The Governor's press release on the Project Remote grant, targeted treatment program for prescription drug addiction in Southwest Virginia and the Real Choice grant, a multi-agency effort to build technology and infrastructure for Mental Retardation services was distributed to Board members.

Martha reminded Board members that they had expressed and interest in training on Medicaid. She acknowledged she has been in contact with DMAS staff and they could provide an hour's training in December or at the Board's convenience. Additional information will be sent to members by email on date and location.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board and upon motion made and seconded, the Board voted to adjourn at 5:27 p.m.

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**Victoria Huber Cochran, Chair**

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**Jewel Booker, Executive Secretary**