

**Minutes**  
**State Mental Health, Mental Retardation**  
**and Substance Abuse Services Board**  
**Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation**  
**And Substance Abuse Services**  
**Richmond, Virginia**  
**January 18, 2006**

***Members Present:*** B. Hunt Gunter, Chair; Victoria Huber Cochran, Linda S. Bartlett, Cheryl Ivey Green, Ruth G. Jarvis, Elaine McConnell, Kathryn A. Smith, David B. Trinkle, M.D.

***Absent:*** Daniel E. Karnes

***Staff Present:*** James S. Reinhard, M.D., Commissioner  
Raymond R. Ratke, Deputy Commissioner  
Charline Davidson, Director, Office of Planning and Development  
Wendy Brown, Office of Planning and Development  
Martha J. Mead, Director, Office of Legislation & Public Relations  
Bill Foy, Office of Legislation & Public Relations  
James Morris, Director, Office of Forensic Facility Services  
James Evans, M. D., Director, Office of Health and Quality Care  
Joy Yeh, Assistant Commissioner of Finance and Administration  
Frank L. Tetrick III., Assistant Commissioner, Division of Community Services  
Jane Hickey, Office of the Attorney General  
Marlene A. Butler, State Board Secretary

***Call to Order*** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the Chairman.

***Agenda:*** The agenda was approved as amended,

***Minutes:*** The minutes of December 7, 2005 were approved as printed.

***Public Comment:*** Chris Reiley, Executive Director of the ARC of Virginia, introduced herself.

***Planning and Budgets Comm.*** Hunt Gunter, Chairman, reported for the Planning and Budget Committee. Deputy Commissioner Raymond R. Ratke gave the committee an overview of the Governor's transformation initiative.

***Evaluation Comm.*** Victoria Huber Cochran, Chairman, reported that the committee has completed their review of State Board Policies. The committee will bring a Policy on Policies to the April meeting. In addition, they will consider a change in the Evaluation Committee's makeup.

The Committee received Petitions for Rulemaking Pursuant to §2.2-4007(A) of the Code of Virginia. After consideration of the matter, the

Committee Chairman moved that the Board deny the petitions as separate regulatory activity and that they be incorporated into the comment process for amending the Human Rights Regulations. Hunt Gunter seconded the motion and the Board unanimously voted to deny the petitions.

The Evaluation Committee plans a March meeting at which time it will be reviewing the Forensics Policies. Also the comment period on the policies on core services has been extended to March in order to give people more time to look at those policies.

***Nominating Comm.*** Kathryn A. Smith reported for the Nominating Committee. She thanked Chairman Gunter and Vice Chairman Cochran for their services this past year. Ms. Smith moved on behalf of the committee to nominate Victoria Huber Cochran Chairman and Daniel E. Karnes Vice-Chairman. David Trinkle seconded the motion to accept the nominations. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the nominations.

***Recognition of Service:*** Following the election, Victoria Huber Cochran presented a resolution in appreciation of Hunt Gunter's service to the Board as follows:

## **Resolution of the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board**

*January 18, 2006*

*Commending B. Hunt Gunter for his service as Chairman of the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board*

**WHEREAS, B. Hunt Gunter, a native of Richmond, Virginia, was appointed to the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board by Governor Mark R. Warner on July 1, 2003; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Gunter was an outspoken advocate on the Board for consumer-driven services to persons with mental illness, mental retardation and substance use disorders; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Gunter led the Board as Interim Chairman beginning in June, 2004, and was elected by the Board to the leadership position of Chairman on January 26, 2005; and**

**WHEREAS, under his leadership the State Board initiated the process of system transformation by adopting policies and plans that articulate a long-range Vision for the future of the services system, implement transformation initiatives, and**

renew and revitalize partnerships with community services boards and private providers; and

**WHEREAS, B. Hunt Gunter presided as chairman when Governor Warner announced the 2006 historic and unprecedented System Transformation Initiative providing long-overdue improvements to state facility services and record investments in community-based services; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED by the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board that the Board recognizes and commends B. Hunt Gunter for his exemplary service and dedication to the people of Virginia, to the State Board and to the transformation of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services in the Commonwealth.**

Following the presentation of the resolution, Commissioner Reinhard presented Mr. Gunter with a plaque and thanked him for his service.

At this time the newly elected Chairman, Victoria Huber Cochran, took over the duties as chairman.

*Commissioner's Report* Dr. James S. Reinhard, Commissioner, distributed copies of "Envision the Possibilities: An Integrated Strategic Plan for Virginia's Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services System." The Restructuring Advisory and Policy Committee has worked closely with the Department, and was instrumental in the development of the Plan. The advisory committee is comprised of stakeholders from all over the Commonwealth who have worked with the department every step of the way in formulating the Integrated Strategic Plan.

Charline Davidson noted last minute changes which have strengthened the Plan.

Raymond R. Ratke presented a summary of the Transformation Initiatives. \$179 million of new funds, both general funds and special revenue, would go into community services.

In addition the initiative recommends the rebuilding of four facilities with smaller and more efficient facilities – Western State Hospital, Eastern State Hospital, Central Virginia Training Center and Southeastern Virginia Training Center.

The total amount of bond issue of \$209 million would cover the costs of rebuilding three of the facilities. The fourth, Western State Hospital, is planned to be rebuilt utilizing an agreement with the City of Staunton.

Funding decisions will be made by June 1, 2006. The Commissioner is asking regions to come back with ideas by February 1, 2006. Every area of the state will see benefits from the transition initiatives.

Following the presentation, and upon motion by Hunt Gunter and second by Kathryn Smith, the Board unanimously endorsed the Integrated Strategic Plan.

**VACSB**

Karen Feagin, Associate Director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, reported on the legislative efforts of the Association in the General Assembly.

**Secretary of Health and Human Resources** Newly appointed Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner, was welcomed to the Board meeting. Following introductions, Secretary Tavenner said she looked forward to working with the Board and to getting to know the members of the Board.

**Forensics Issues**

James Morris, Director of the Office of Forensic Services, gave an overview of the office and forensic issues before the General Assembly. The Office of Forensic Services provides expert mental health evaluation services to the criminal courts; expert witness testimony to the criminal courts regarding mental health issues; and mental health treatment services to individuals having active involvement with the criminal justice system. There are Forensic Coordinators, database coordinators, evaluators and forensic evaluation/treatment teams at the facilities. In addition each of the Community Services Boards has an assigned Forensic Coordinator, Forensic Evaluation Coordinator and an NGRI Coordinator. The Department serve those with mental health and substance abuse treatment needs who are involved in the criminal justice system in facilities and the community as well as the court systems, local and regional jails among others.

There are currently 439 forensic patients in state facilities, approximately 25% of all state hospital patients. These fall into seven categories: evaluations; jail transfers, incompetent to stand trial; not guilty by reason of insanity; unrestorably incompetent to stand trial, NGRI revocations and mandatory parolees.

Current initiatives include the Forensic “Special Populations” Work Group. This is -a multi-agency program with the overall goal of prevention/diversion from criminal justice system involvement of people with mental illness and serious substance abuse disorders.

The Joint Commission on Healthcare, Behavioral Healthcare Subcommittees has been conducting a study of services for persons found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. The Joint Commission sponsored legislation and budget amendments for funding jail diversion programs and mental health courts.

***Legislative Update*** Martha Mead, Director of the Office of Legislation and Public Relations described the process of assessing all legislation that is introduced at the General Assembly. Ms. Mead and Bill Foy identify the bills and refer these to staff members who have the most expertise in the area to do an analysis and then work with the patrons if there are any problems with the bills or to assist them if we are in a position to support them in getting legislation through. Ms. Mead reviewed major legislation being tracked by the Department.

***Adjournment*** There being no further business before the Board and upon motion made and seconded, the Board adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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Victoria Huber Cochran, Chairman

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Marlene Butler, Secretary