

Meeting Minutes



Joint Commission on Health Care
Wednesday, June 6, 2012
10:00 a.m.
Senate Room A – General Assembly Building

Present: Delegate Robert H. Brink
 Delegate David L. Bulova
 Delegate R. Rosalyn R. Dance
 Delegate T. Scott Garrett
 Delegate Riley E. Ingram
 Delegate John M. O’Bannon
 Delegate Christopher P. Stolle

Senator George L. Barker
Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr.
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Senator Stephen H. Martin
Senator Jeffrey L. McWaters (conference)
Senator Linda T. Puller

Call to Order

The Joint Commission was called to order by Senator Linda T. Puller, Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair. Senator Puller welcomed JCHC’s new members: Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr., Senator Stephen H. Martin, Senator Jeffrey L. McWaters, Delegate Riley E. Ingram, and Delegate Christopher P. Stolle.

Election of Officers

Senator Puller recognized Ms. Snead who opened the floor for nominations for JCHC Chair. Senator Lucas moved to nominate Senator Puller and the motion was seconded by several members. Ms. Snead asked if there were any additional nominations for Chair and there were none. Members were asked to vote by raising their hands and Senator Puller was elected by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Snead opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Delegate Dance nominated Delegate O’Bannon and the motion was seconded by several members. Ms. Snead asked if there were any additional nominations for Vice-Chair and there were none. Members were asked to vote by raising their hands and Delegate O’Bannon was elected by a unanimous vote.

As the new chair, Senator Puller thanked everyone for their support and noted that veterans are such an important part of the community of people across the Commonwealth she would like for JCHC to focus on veterans’ health both mental and physical over the next year.

Staff Introduction and Discussion of JCHC Subcommittees and Meeting Dates

Ms. Snead introduced JCHC staff and noted that staff members are available and interested in assisting JCHC members in addressing any health care questions.

JCHC’s Subcommittees on Behavioral Health Care (BHC) and Healthy Living/Health Services (HL/HS) were described and members were asked to indicate their interest in serving on one or

both Subcommittees; a sign-up sheet was circulated. Members were asked to vote on holding a BHC Subcommittee meeting on the afternoon of June 28th (following the Heroes in Health Care event) assuming the meeting date is approved by the Senate Rules Committee Chair. Following the explanation for Senate Rules' approval, Senator Puller asked Ms. Snead to draft a request a general exception to the approved meeting dates, similar to the authorization requested by several other legislative commissions.

Discussion of Proposed 2012 Work Plan for JCHC

During Ms. Snead's overview of the 2012 JCHC work-plan proposal, a number of discussions of interest took place including:

- Ms. Snead explained that she would work with Senator Puller to set specific meeting dates after hearing from the Chair of Senate Rules Committee.
- The JCHC representative on the VHI Board needs to be appointed. Delegate Dance and Delegate Garrett indicated their interest in working together regarding the appointment, if no other members express an interest.
- Delegate Stolle indicated he is interested in reviewing the regulatory environment in which health care is provided, specifically the State regulations. Delegate Stolle indicated Virginia has Medicaid regulations that are not required by the federal government. For example, the Department of Medical Assistance Services has withheld payment for some hospital admissions because the word "certified" was not used by the physician on the Medicaid admission form.

Discussion of Proposed BHC Subcommittee Work Plan for 2012

The 2012 work plan for the BHC Subcommittee was presented for member consideration.

In reaction to the proposed June 28th agenda including presentations by Inspector General Bevelacqua and Richard Bonnie, the following comments were made:

- Delegate O'Bannon noted that many of the issues addressed in the Inspector General's presentation will reflect a range of perspectives, so he would suggest hearing the perspectives of stakeholder groups during the meeting.
- Delegate Stolle indicated he is interested in hearing about the availability of forensic beds and about inmates awaiting evaluations while being held in jail.
- Senator Carrico would like to address the burden on local law enforcement officers who are required to provide transport and security for individuals being evaluated for temporary detention orders.
- Senator McWaters asked if JCHC had reviewed the managed care contracts that are being prepared for behavioral health care services. He would suggest reviewing the effectiveness of the roll-out or some evaluation of quality and access with a summary of the review being available after the first of the year. Ms. Snead indicated we had not looked at that issue, she but thought it would be appropriate to do so. Senator Puller agreed and noted that JCHC has broad authority to review issues related to health, behavioral health, and long-term care issues. Senator McWaters suggested discussing his interest further with the staff director.
- Senator McWaters noted his bill (Senate Bill 81) which would expand coverage for hospitalization or licensed outpatient surgical care when anesthesia is used for children under age 13 (currently the requirement applies to children under age five) was passed by indefinitely. Senator McWaters asked if JCHC ever reviewed proposed mandate

changes. After some discussion, it was suggested that the Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits and JLARC may already plan to undertake a study. Senator McWaters agreed and indicated he has talked with JLARC about the bill. *A subsequent review of JLARC's 2012 work plan revealed that a review of SB 81 as a mandated health benefit is being undertaken.*

Following discussion of the proposed agenda for October, Delegate Brink noted it is important to determine the Commonwealth's needs for community-based resources for individuals with behavioral health needs or we risk having another settlement situation. Delegate Bulova noted he is very concerned about how quickly the plan to address the DOJ settlement needs to come together. Delegate Bulova therefore suggested that members explain, during the June 28th meeting, any specific questions they have about the plan. This will enable Secretary Hazel to be prepared when he presents during the BHC Subcommittee meeting in October. Delegate Bulova noted that JCHC, as one of the only legislative oversight groups that will have an opportunity to review the plan before the next General Assembly Session, needs to have a clear understanding of the plan. Delegate Dance stated she has been working closely with Secretary Hazel and his team as the training center in her area is one of the first to be closed. At this point, the plan is still being developed and held a little close to the chest but a detailed plan is in the works.

Discussion of Proposed HL/HS Subcommittee Work Plan for 2012

Mr. Bowman presented the proposed 2012 work plan for the HL/HS Subcommittee, including a tentative meeting schedule, studies, and presentations for member consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A meeting of the BHC Subcommittee has been tentatively scheduled for June 28th at 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Sylvia A. Reid, Operations Manager

Date: June 13, 2012