

**Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee**  
**Joint Commission on Health Care**  
General Assembly Building – Senate Room A  
April 30, 2009 – 10:15 a.m.

**Minutes**

Attendance

Senator George L. Barker  
Senator R. Edward Houck  
Senator Ralph S. Northam  
Senator Linda T. Puller  
Senator William C. Wampler (conference)

Delegate Robert H. Brink  
Delegate David L. Bulova  
Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton  
Delegate Harvey B. Morgan  
Delegate David A. Nutter  
Delegate John M. O'Bannon, III

The meeting was called to order by Delegate Harvey B. Morgan, Subcommittee Co-Chair.

**Presentations**

Ms. Kim Snead presented proposed agendas for the 2009 meetings for the Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee's consideration.

Ms. Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D. presented the staff report on Minority Mental Health Needs and Treatment in Virginia.

**Comments**

Delegate Hamilton stated that he would like a status report on the downsizing of Eastern State Hospital and a presentation or report on whether civil beds are being replaced by forensic beds in mental health facilities. In addition, Delegate Hamilton stated he would like an update on the grants that DMHMRSAS issued for the provision of mental health treatment in jails. Delegate Morgan agreed with Delegate Hamilton's comments, noting that the issues raised by Delegate Hamilton are important and need to be addressed fully by DMHMRSAS.

Delegate Bulova reiterated his comments (first made during the JCHC meeting) regarding the issue of balancing the need for training centers and Medicaid waivers. Delegate Bulova noted that during Session there was much angst over how to balance the need for funding and he would like to better understand the status of the issues going into the 2010 Session. Delegate Hamilton indicated when the comprehensive plan for children, adolescents, and their families is presented by Secretary Tavenner; he hopes the presentation will address Delegate Bulova's concerns about the training centers, the adolescent center in Staunton and an update on the center in southwest Virginia.

Delegate Morgan noted that the Governor's budget had included immediate downsizing. There is a different timeline now, but it seems to be driven in large part by the financial crisis. Plans are in place to downsize or close but people are not confident with what we are going to be doing. It is imperative for the Secretary and Commissioner to keep members apprised so there will be no surprises next year.

Delegate Hamilton noted we may want to switch the two meeting dates with the mental health focus being in October and the discussions related to the training centers and children's services in the summer. The issues related to training centers cannot wait as having facilities to transition into must be addressed. Delegate Morgan indicated we need to be sure that decisions are made on the basis of need, and not being driven by dollars or the lack thereof. He agreed with Delegate Hamilton's suggestion regarding the meeting date topics.

Following the discussion of the hosting law legislation, Delegate O'Bannon asked if this hosting law issue was on the Crime Commission's agenda since the legislation will have to go through the Courts Committees. Delegate Morgan suggested that if there was no objection, JCHC should ask the Crime Commission to consider reviewing the legal issues involved in enacting a hosting law. Senator Blevins made the motion which was approved by the Subcommittee members.

The Subcommittee members then approved the proposed BHC Subcommittee 2009 work plan as amended resulting in the planned meeting agendas which follow.

#### **Proposed Agenda for Summer Meeting (*date to be determined*)**

- Sheila Drucker of the Norfolk Public Defender's Office regarding proposed changes to the current guardian ad litem system for special needs children.
- Presentation on activities of the Geriatric Mental Health Partnership
- Report by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on such topics as the current status and future plans for training and mental health facilities and jail-based services being funded by mental health treatment grants.

#### **Proposed Agenda for October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

- Mental Health First Aid
- Development of Comprehensive Plan for BHC Services for Children, Adolescents and their Families
- Continuation of review of mental health law reform in Virginia
- JCHC staff-led discussion to reexamine allowing private providers of mental health services to consider for employment individuals with a misdemeanor conviction of assault and battery against a family member, if the offense was substantially related to the individuals' substance abuse or mental illness.

#### **Agenda for November 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

- Discussion of Decision Matrix

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: Kim Snead, Executive Director

Prepared by: Sylvia A. Reid, Operations Manager

Date: May 18, 2009