

## **Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

*September 7, 2010*

*Present:*

Delegate David L. Bulova	Senator George L. Barker
Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance	Senator L. Louise Lucas
Delegate Harvey B. Morgan	Senator Ralph S. Northam
Delegate David A. Nutter	Senator Linda T. Puller
Delegate John M. O'Bannon, III	Senator Patricia S. Ticer
	Senator William C. Wampler, Jr. (conference)

*Next meeting:* November 3, 2010 GAB/SRA

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#### **Call to Order**

The Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee meeting was called to order by co-chair, Senator L. Louise Lucas.

#### **Presentations**

Richard J. Bonnie, L.L.B., Commission Chair- Mental Health Law Reform reported on the preliminary findings of the survey of public and private colleges related to the provision of mental health services for students. (In October 2009, the Joint Commission on Health Care had agreed to provide an umbrella of oversight for the survey and this past spring, the survey was undertaken in coordination with the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform.) A preliminary report on the survey can be found on JCHC's website at <http://jchc.state.va.us> (within the September 7<sup>th</sup> BHC Subcommittee meeting). A final report on the survey findings as well as resulting conclusions and recommendations will be presented to JCHC next spring.

Mr. Bonnie also presented a Progress Report on the work of the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform. He stated the main focus has shifted to implementing the innovations already enacted. The innovations consist of: criminal justice and mental health transformation, implementing advance directives in mental health care, unfinished business in commitment reform, and measuring and improving performance.

Jill Hanken, Staff Attorney with the Virginia Poverty Law Center presented information on potential effects of national health reform legislation on Virginia.

Mira Signer, Executive Director with the Virginia Office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) shared stories concerning what health care reform may mean for people living with serious mental illness.

Kim Snead gave a brief history of JCHC's involvement in addressing the issue of barrier crimes related to employment in adult mental health facilities. Public comments, on the three Options presented for the Subcommittee's consideration, will be accepted through September 28, 2010.

Jessica Eades, Senior Attorney with the Division of Legislative Services indicated that the iterative process of amending Code §§ 37.2-416 and 37.2-506 have resulted in some questions regarding how the various provisions should be interpreted and how they work together.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by: Sylvia A. Reid  
Date: October 12, 2010