

Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee

General Assembly Building – Senate Room A

October 7, 2009 - 1:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance

Senator George L. Barker

Senator Patricia S. Ticer

Delegate Robert H. Brink

Delegate David L. Bulova

Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance

Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton

Delegate A.T. Howell

Delegate Harvey B. Morgan

Call to Order

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

Presentations

Dr. Richard J. Bonnie, Chair of the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform gave a brief update regarding the Commission's key accomplishments and unfinished work. The Commission's 2009 Progress Report will be released this December. The Reform Commission intends to complete its work in 2010 at which time its *Report on Access to Services* and a final report will be released. (Reminder that JCHC agreed during its morning meeting to oversee a study on mental health issues in higher education in concert with a steering committee chaired by Dr. Bonnie.)

Raymond Ratke, Special Advisor for Children's Services presented information on recent improvements in the delivery of services to children and families. Mr. Ratke indicated that significant progress has been made in addressing each of the recommendations of the review by the Office of the Inspector General. Mr. Ratke noted that the Children's Service System Transformation has established an interagency process involving a collaborative effort that goes beyond CSBs to include social services, education, juvenile justice and the Comprehensive Services Act.

Meena Dayak, Vice President of Marketing and Communications and Susan Partain, Outreach Associate with the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare explained the concept behind Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health First Aid refers to the "help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a crisis until professional treatment is received or the crisis resolves." The Mental Health First Aid certification program, created in Australia in 2001, has expanded to 14 additional countries reaching the U.S. in 2008. The National Council offers a 5-day training program for Mental Health First Aid instructors. Instructors are certified to provide 12-hour community programs that assist participants in learning "a 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care."

Jaime Hoyle, Senior Staff Attorney presented the staff update regarding barrier crime legislation. Ms. Hoyle explained that legislation, introduced on behalf of JCHC and enacted in 2008 to ease a few barrier-crime employment restrictions, was inadvertently amended incorrectly. Ms. Hoyle presented three options for JCHC members to consider regarding current statutory provisions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.