

## **Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee**

General Assembly Building – Senate Room A

August 12, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

Senator George L. Barker  
Senator L. Louise Lucas  
Senator Ralph S. Northam  
Senator Linda T. Puller  
Senator Patricia S. Ticer

Delegate Robert H. Brink  
Delegate David L. Bulova  
Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance  
Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton  
Delegate Algie T. Howell  
Delegate John M. O'Bannon, III

#### **Call to Order**

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

#### **Presentations**

Stephen M. Herrick, Chair of the Geriatric Mental Health Planning Partnership and Julie Young Bayly, Administrator of Riverside Convalescent Center, presented an overview of the Partnership. A group of mental health and long-term care professionals met in 2007, in response to the need to address challenging behaviors in older adults residing in long-term care facilities. The resulting partnership focuses on developing a statewide continuum of care model that “encompasses a range of programs and services to provide the most efficient treatment at the right time for an individual’s specific needs.”

Dr. James Reinhard, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, presented the Subcommittee with updated information on the State’s mental health facilities, training centers and Medicaid waiver programs. Commissioner Reinhard also described jail diversion and crisis intervention training projects and mentioned the funding allocation for FY09/10.

Mira Signer, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, gave an overview of the report *Grading the States 2009* as it pertains to both national trends and Virginia’s mental health programs and needs.

Jacqueline Cunningham, Deputy Commissioner, Life and Health Division and Bonnie Salzman, Associate General Counsel, of the Bureau of Insurance presented an overview of Virginia law and the federal Mental Health Parity Act as they relate to mental health coverage. Ms. Cunningham explained that Virginia law may conflict with the new federal law and gave several options for addressing the conflict.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the BHC Subcommittee is scheduled for October 7, 2009.

Prepared by: Sylvia A. Reid