

**Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee**  
General Assembly Building – Senate Room A  
August 4, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

In Attendance

Delegate Harvey B. Morgan  
Delegate Robert H. Brink  
Delegate David L. Bulova  
Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance  
Delegate A.T. Howell  
Delegate David A. Nutter

Senator R. Edward Houck  
Senator Linda T. Puller

The BHC Subcommittee meeting was called to order by co-chair, Delegate Harvey Morgan.

**History of Involvement with ASD Issues**

Kim Snead pointed out that a fact sheet regarding autism spectrum disorders (from the Centers for Disease Control) was included in the members' notebooks as was a brief history of the BHC Subcommittee's involvement with issues related to ASD. Ms. Snead discussed the history and entertained questions and comments.

Senator Houck noted that the SFC Health and Human Resources Subcommittee had addressed ASD issues for the past two years and that he wanted to have that work added to the history. The SFC-HHR Subcommittee will hear several presentations on this topic during its August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting at VCU. In addition, Senator Houck stated that he sponsored legislation in the 2010 session that would have created a legislative committee to review and address ASD services. The resolution passed the Senate but was left in the House Rules Committee

Delegate Morgan indicated that he has met with Delegate O'Bannon and Bob Bradshaw (representing the insurance industry) concerning issues surrounding children with ASD. He asked if anyone on the BHC subcommittee would be interested in developing a concept to establish a fund that provides services for ASD families. This concept would be based on the model followed by the college prepaid fund. Delegate Bulova, Delegate Dance, and Senator Houck said they would be interested in participating in an ad hoc group on this issue.

**DBHDS Priorities and Behavioral Health Care Updates**

James W. Stewart, III, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services spoke on the following topics:

- DBHDS Priorities for the next four years
- Development of comprehensive plan for children's mental health services
- Closing of beds at South West Virginia Mental Health Institute
- Action plan for services to individuals with ASD and developmental disabilities
- Access to psychotropic medications in jails
- Psychiatric bed registry

**The Community Perspective**

Lisa Moore, Executive Director with Mount Rogers Community Services Board spoke regarding the closure of the adolescent unit and the planned closure of the geriatric unit at Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute. Ms. Moore described:

- Demographics/regional data
- Southwest Virginia Behavioral Health Board for Regional Planning
- Impact on child and adolescent services
- Impact on geriatric services

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next BHC subcommittee meeting will be held September 7, 2010.

Prepared by: Sylvia A. Reid  
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