

**Governor's Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction  
Governor's Executive Leadership Team on Opioids and Addiction  
Joint Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 19, 2018  
Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room  
Richmond, VA

**Advisory Commission and Executive Leadership Team Attendees:**

**Omar Abubaker, DMD**, Professor and Chair, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, VCU Health  
**Barbara Allison-Bryan, MD**, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Health Professions  
**Brittany Anderson**, Director of Legislative and Constituent Affairs, Office of the Attorney General  
**Tom Bannard, MBA**, Recovery Program Coordinator, Rams in Recovery, Virginia Commonwealth University  
**Michael Barbuti**, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Agency  
**Christina Barille**, Executive Director, Virginia Pharmacists Association  
**The Honorable George Barker**, Member, Senate of Virginia  
**Lauren Bates-Rowe**, Assistant Vice President of Health Policy, Medical Society of Virginia  
**The Honorable Daniel Carey, MD**, Secretary of Health and Human Resources  
**Mary Crozier, EdD**, Chair, Community Coalitions of Virginia  
**Lauren Cummings**, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition  
**Mike Doucette**, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys  
**Jermiah Fitz**, Regional Administrator-Community, Central Region, Department of Corrections  
**Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH**, Deputy Commissioner for Population Health, Department of Health  
**Lauren Grawert, MD**, Treatment provider, Kaiser Permanente  
**Kevin Hall**, Sheriff, Alleghany County  
**Ashley Harrell**, Program Advisor, Department of Medical Assistance Services  
**David Hartman, MD**, Treatment provider, Carilion Clinic  
**The Honorable Carlos Hopkins**, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs  
**Fran Inge**, Division Director, Department of Social Services  
**Linda Jackson**, Director, Department of Forensic Science  
**Gopi Jadhav, MD**, Internal Medicine Specialist, Virginia Commonwealth University  
**Tim Jones**, Sheriff, Roanoke City  
**Marty Kilgore**, Executive Director, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth  
**Alethea Lambert**, Peer provider, Hampton/Newport News Community Services Board  
**Timothy Lyon**, Lieutenant Colonel, Virginia State Police  
**Keith Martin**, Executive Vice President, Virginia Chamber  
**The Honorable Brian Moran**, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security  
**Kate Neuhausen, MD**, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Medical Assistance Services  
**Anna Powers**, Drug Court Coordinator, Supreme Court of Virginia  
**Mellie Randal**, Substance Use Disorder Policy Director, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

**Marcy Rosenbaum, LCSW**, Behavioral Health Director, Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems

**Dana Schrad**, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

**Gail Taylor**, Director, Office of Behavioral Health Wellness, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

**Catherine Zagurskie**, Attorney, Indigent Defense Commission

**Advisory Commission and Executive Leadership Team Staff:**

**Jonathan Kiser**, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health

**Jodi Manz, MSW**, Staff Director, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Resources

**Brenden McDonald**, VISTA, Department of Social Services

**Victoria Noles**, VISTA, Department of Social Services

**Guest Attendees:**

**Savannah Bowen**, Virginia Pharmacists Association

**Cheryl Hartman, PhD**, Carilion Medical Center

**Matt Leslie**, Assistant Director, Department of Veterans Services

**Mark Murphy**, Health Services Director, Department of Juvenile Justice

**Carole Pratt, DMD**, Health Policy Advisor, Department of Health

**Regina Whitsett**, Executive Director, SAFE

**Michael Zohab**, Opioid Project Coordinator, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

**Welcome and Introductions**

Secretary Carey provided opening remarks, thanked everyone for attending, and stated that he is looking forward to learning from the Advisory Commission members today. Secretary Carey shared that Governor Northam released his proposed amendments to the 2018–2020 biennial budget yesterday. Addiction response remains a major focus area and the Administration will be working closely with the General Assembly over the coming weeks. Secretary Carey also shared that more than 182,000 Virginia adults are now enrolled in new health coverage that begins on January 1, 2019 under Medicaid expansion. Secretary Carey stated that he appreciates the talent in the room and is looking forward to today’s dialogue.

Secretary Moran provided opening remarks and thanked all attendees for their time commitment. Secretary Moran is looking forward to exciting work on the budget and the upcoming legislative session. He also shared that he enjoyed the great, informative presentations at the last meeting of the Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction and is looking forward to today’s presentations as well as the second half of today’s meeting which will allow for more conversation.

All Advisory Commission members, Executive Leadership Team members and guests introduced themselves.

### **Presentation: College Campus Peer Recovery**

Tom Bannard, MBA, CADC, Program Coordinator for Rams in Recovery – Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and Treasurer, Association of Recovery in Higher Education, provided a presentation on collegiate recovery in Virginia. Mr. Bannard shared that his presentation today will include recovery more broadly in addition to the program at VCU. He also shared that working in recovery is a calling and not a job. Mr. Bannard stated that a key question is how we can sustain wellness for people in recovery long-term (5+) years. Mr. Bannard provided information on the program at VCU which includes a clubhouse, coaching, housing, scholarships and seminars, coursework, trips and gatherings, and naloxone administration training. Mr. Bannard also shared information on the Recovery Ally program at VCU, which trains individuals on how to support people who disclose that they have a substance use problem. Mr. Bannard shared information about the Association of Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE) and reviewed the ARHE standards and recommendations. In Virginia, collegiate recovery programs exist at VCU, the University of Virginia, Washington & Lee, and Virginia Tech. Efforts are also underway at Hampton Sydney and Longwood. Mr. Bannard's presentation will be shared with attendees and also posted to the Curb the Crisis website after the meeting.

### **Presentation: Understanding Community Coalitions in Virginia**

Mary Crozier, EdD, delivered a presentation on Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA). CCoVA is Virginia's state coalition uniting community prevention coalitions throughout the Commonwealth. CCoVA began 10 years ago and now includes 37 community coalitions as well as seven state agencies, three other agencies, and four individuals. Dr. Crozier shared that CCoVA provides networking, training and advocacy services. Dr. Crozier also shared information on several high performing community coalitions in the state. CCoVA is organizing participation in the next legislative day scheduled for January 23, 2019. Dr. Crozier's presentation will be shared with attendees and also posted to the Curb the Crisis website after the meeting.

### **Presentation: Treatment Initiation in Emergency Departments**

David Hartman, MD, presented on treatment initiation in emergency departments. Dr. Hartman shared that he began treating patients with heroin addiction in the 1990s. At the time, he had little success and relapse within a week was very common. Dr. Hartman started providing Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) in 2007 and it has been very helpful in stabilizing patients in need of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). Dr. Hartman shared that this treatment requires the same dose on a regular basis. He stated that he requires patients to attend a weekly group meeting in order to receive medication. Dr. Hartman shared that the ARTS program helps him employ care coordinators and counselors to expand the program. Dr. Hartman also discussed the pros and cons of methadone and naltrexone in treating patients. Dr. Hartman is working with local hospitals to get patients from the emergency department to office-based opioid treatment (OBOT). He also shared that a local hospital is beginning to offer three-day suboxone treatment in the emergency department and that he is also hoping to employ peer recovery coaches in that setting. Dr. Hartman stated that many patients also need counseling services, testing and treatment for infectious diseases, and other wrap-around services.

Dr. Allison-Bryan shared that Connecticut has a program that dedicates emergency department space for psychiatric patients and asked Dr. Hartman how he keeps patients from leaving the emergency department. Dr. Hartman shared that many patients present to the emergency department in withdrawal, which makes them good candidates for suboxone. Others present after having just been revived with naloxone, in which case a dedicated area is beneficial.

### **Facilitated Discussion**

Secretary Carey and Secretary Moran facilitated a discussion and engaged all attendees. Secretary Carey shared that Virginia now has three approved comprehensive harm reduction (CHR) programs and that CHR is an example of an important strategy in the state's response. Secretary Carey asked the group to provide input on what can be improved or is currently missing in the state's response. Responses included:

- There is a need to get the whole family unit involved in a person's recovery and making the living environment conducive to recovery is important.
- There are significant impacts on the social service/foster care system.
- When individuals lose custody of their children and then lose Medicaid coverage they are not able to remain in treatment.
- Drug courts are not available in every locality and some areas do not have a Circuit Court judge.
- There is a need to focus on the underlying link between mental health and addiction as substance use disorder (SUD) is rarely the only diagnosis. There should be an emphasis on trauma-informed care.
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is often unaffordable.
- There is a need to continue MAT regardless of urine test results.
- Stigmatization still occurs and SUD is not always considered a disease.
  - Language is important and terms such as "clean", "dirty", "addict" and "relapse" should be avoided.
- It is important for people with lived experience to provide education and training for others.
- Barrier crimes prevent employment of many people in recovery and also impact the individuals' ability to access housing and other supports.
- There needs to be better investment in youth prevention activities.
- There is a lack of prevention programs for law enforcement agencies.
- There are no standardized guidelines or dedicated funding for drug courts.
- Commonwealth Attorneys' are not able to prosecute dealers for manslaughter when a death occurs.
- Drug courts usually require a guilty plea, which will lead to barriers down the road. There are other ways to divert individuals from the criminal justice system.
- The ARTS program is an excellent program that is able to demonstrate effectiveness with data. Data is important for all programs. The CHR program will be formally evaluated, although there will be a small sample size.
- There is a need for safe harbor laws to promote harm reduction programs.

- The Governor's Grand Rounds sessions were important for de-stigmatization and increasing awareness.
- Reimbursement rates for peer recovery specialists under Medicaid are too low.
- The availability of naloxone for law enforcement needs to be increased.
- Recovery communities in Virginia's colleges and universities should be better promoted.

### **Closing/Next Steps**

Secretary Carey provided closing remarks, expressed hope in the future and thanked all in attendance for playing a role. Secretary Moran also provided closing remarks and stated that there are a number of health investments in the proposed budget and a very active General Assembly session is approaching. Secretary Moran encouraged all to follow the session and stay involved in the process.

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2019 from 10:00 AM to noon. Assistant Secretary Manz will provide additional information once finalized.