

Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

*General Assembly Building, House Room D
Richmond, Virginia*

MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

Members Present

Co-Chairs

The Honorable William Hazel, Jr., MD, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

The Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Members

David E. Brown, DC, Director, Virginia Department of Health Professions

James A. Cervera, Chief of Police, Virginia Beach Police Department

Rick Clark, Jr., Chief of Police, Galax Police Department

Francine C. Ecker, Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Don Flattery, Impacted parent and community advocate for response to prescription drug and heroin abuse

Carol Forster, MD, Physician Director, Pharmacy & Therapeutics/Medication Safety, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group

The Honorable Charniele L. Herring, Member, Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable David R. Hines, Sheriff, Hanover County Sheriff's Office

The Honorable M. Keith Hodges, RPh, Member, Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones, Judge, Norfolk Circuit Court

Mary G. McMasters, MD, FASAM, Addictionologist, Comprehensive Behavioral Health

Sarah Tollison Melton, PharmD, Chair, One Care of Southwest Virginia

The Honorable Nancy G. Parr, Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Chesapeake; President, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys

The Honorable Anthony Roper, Sheriff, Clarke County Sheriff's Office

Juan Santacoloma, Multicultural Liaison, Chesterfield County and SAFE Latino Coordinator

Patricia Shaw, Administrator, Henrico Drug Treatment Court and President, Virginia Drug Court Association

David Trump, MD, Chief Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health, proxy for Dr. Marissa Levine

Mary Vail Ware, Director of Programs and Community Outreach, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, proxy for Cynthia Hudson
The Honorable Jennifer T. Wexton, Member, Senate of Virginia

Staff Present

Victoria Cochran, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Office of the Governor

Shannon Dion, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Teresa P. Gooch, Division Director of Law Enforcement and Security Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Katya Herndon, Chief Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Caroline D. Juran, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, Virginia Department of Health Professions

Jodi Manz, MSW, Policy Advisor, Office of the Secretary of Health & Human Resources

Ralph Orr, Director, Prescription Monitoring Program, Virginia Department of Health Professions

Mellie Randall, Director, Office of Substance Abuse Services, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Laura Z. Rothrock, Executive Assistant and Operations Manager, Virginia Department of Health Professions

Jessica Smith, School and Campus Security Specialist, Division of Law Enforcement and Security Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Karen Sullivan, Administrative Planning Specialist, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Members Absent

Craig Branch, Chief of Police, Germanna Community College Police Department

Jan M. Brown, Executive Director, SpiritWorks Foundation

The Honorable Bill Carrico, Member, Senate of Virginia

Lillian Chamberlain, Substance Abuse Services Team Leader, Norfolk Community Services Board

Karl C. Colder, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington Division Office

Kim W. Craig, MSN, RN, Executive Director, Staunton-Augusta County Rescue Squad and Vice President, Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads

Terry D. Dickinson, DDS, Executive Director, Virginia Dental Association

Debra Ferguson, PhD, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

Mary Gavin, Chief of Police, Falls Church Police Department

Cynthia E. Hudson, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia

Rick Jenkins, Deputy Director, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Virginia Department of State Police

Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health

The Honorable John M. O'Bannon, Member, Virginia House of Delegates

Opening Remarks

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Secretary Moran called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and recognized Frazier Blaylock of Covanta Energy, Dave McClure of Urban Institute, and Mary Vail Ware of the Attorney General's Office. He also thanked the Task Force and Workgroup members and the Task Force staff.

Approval of Task Force Minutes

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

(Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Task Force meeting may be found on the Task Force website at www.dhp.virginia.gov/taskforce.)

Members were provided with the draft of the May 12, 2015 Task Force meeting minutes as well as corrections suggested by Caroline Juran. There were no objections to the suggested corrections, and the minutes were approved with the corrections.

Public Comment

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Three individuals addressed the Task Force: Peter Rush of Leesburg, Virginia, Frazier Blaylock of Covanta Energy, and Robin Hamill-Ruth of the University of Virginia Health System. Mr. Rush has a daughter who is a recovering heroin addict, stressed the importance of treatment, and would like to see more information about treatment on the future website recommended by the Task Force. Ms. Blaylock indicated that Covanta offers communities free disposal of prescription drugs and is looking forward to increasing participation in drug take back programs. Ms. Hamill-Ruth addressed legislation passed in Tennessee related to referrals to pain specialists and recommended that similar legislation be considered by Virginia and that it define the term "pain specialist."

Drug Court Presentation

The Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones, Judge, Norfolk Circuit Court

Anna Powers, Drug Treatment Court Coordinator, Supreme Court of Virginia

(Handout provided; see the Task Force website at www.dhp.virginia.gov/taskforce)

Judge Jones and Ms. Powers provided an overview of Drug Treatment Courts in Virginia which were created by statute in *Code of Virginia* Section 18.2-254.1 Drug Treatment Court Act and an Alternative sentencing for Drug Addicted Defendants Paragraph B. They are specialized court dockets within Virginia's existing court system which provide comprehensive substance abuse treatment, intensive supervision, and ancillary services for non-violent, chronic offenders who are approved by the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The participants are required to attend all treatment and probation sessions weekly, are drug tested twice weekly at a minimum, are required to attend court weekly or bi-weekly during the first part of the program, and are required to be employed or find employment. If unable to find employment, community service is assigned. They receive incentives for doing well (e.g., applause, shake Judge's hand, leave court early as opposed to hearing the whole docket) and sanctions when they do not comply (e.g., restricted curfew, home arrest).

The Drug Treatment Courts save money (nearly \$20,000 per participant) and cut down on recidivism; however, funding has remained flat for the past 10 years. General funds are appropriated to the Supreme Court of Virginia who administers the funds to the Drug Treatment Courts through a grant process. Treatment of participants may be funded by the local community services board through in-kind services. For fiscal year 2014, over \$21 million in cost savings was generated from current operational drug courts. Reinvesting less than 10% of these savings will increase savings by serving more citizens and saving lives.

Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances Presentation

Sterling Ransone, Jr., MD, President, Medical Society of Virginia

(Handout provided; see the Task Force website at www.dhp.virginia.gov/taskforce)

Dr. Ransone discussed the pharmacy, vendor, and provider sides of electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS), which is now allowed in all 50 states. Pharmacy EPCS readiness in Virginia is well above the national average, however, Virginia prescriber EPCS enablement is well below the national average. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations provide for a lengthy approval process before practitioners can issue controlled substance prescriptions electronically. Dr. Ransone recommended that the Task Force send a letter to the U.S. DEA to review its regulations and go to a less cumbersome method for approval.

Review and Approval of Draft Implementation Plan

Victoria Cochran, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Office of the Governor

Ms. Cochran served as facilitator for the review and approval of the draft of the Task Force's Implementation Plan which is due to Governor McAuliffe on June 30, 2015. Each of the Workgroups presented their recommendations, and any necessary revisions to the Plan were discussed and approved by the Task Force members. The draft of the Implementation Plan will not be provided on the Task Force website, but the final version sent to the Governor will be posted at www.dhp.virginia.gov/taskforce.

In conjunction with the presentation of the recommendations in the Implementation Plan, Caroline Juran, co-chair of the Storage and Disposal Workgroup, discussed the handout regarding the results of the 2015 Prescription Drug Disposal Survey of Law Enforcement. Katya Herndon, co-chair of the Data and Monitoring Workgroup, discussed the handout that included materials for two of the recommendations regarding the Virginia Prescription Monitoring Program. The handouts can be found on the Task Force website at www.dhp.virginia.gov/taskforce.

Next Meeting

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Perimeter Center in Henrico County.

Closing Remarks

William Hazel Jr., MD, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Secretary recognized the staff for their work in support of the Task Force and indicated that the Implementation Plan will be modified before presenting to the Governor on June 30, 2015.

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Secretary Hazel adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.