

## VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

September 20, 2017

10:30 a.m.

House Committee Room, W011  
Ground Floor, Pocahontas Building

### MINUTES

#### Attending:

Delegates Richard Anderson, Richard Bell, Christopher Peace  
Senators Barbara Favola, Dave Marsden  
Citizen members Karrie Delaney, Deirdre Goldsmith, Chris Rehak

#### Not Attending:

Senator William Carrico, Delegates Peter Farrell, Daun Hester, and Mark Keam

#### Staff Attending

Amy Atkinson, Will Egen, and Leah Mills

#### I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

*Senator Barbara A. Favola, Chair*

Senator Favola welcomed the Commission members and meeting participants and asked that the members introduce themselves.

#### II. Identifying Substance-Use Prevention and Intervention Programs at Virginia's Colleges and Universities

*Katie Weaks, LPC, Education & Prevention Manager, Virginia ABC*

*Danielle Luster, M.A., Education & Prevention Coordinator, Virginia ABC*

*Recommendations: Amy M. Atkinson / Will Egen*

Senator Favola introduced the topic and stated that this issue has been brought to the Commission by Commissioner Dede Goldsmith. Senator Favola introduced Ms. Weaks and Ms. Luster.

Ms. Weaks gave background about Virginia ABC's history of focusing on drug and alcohol abuse prevention and intervention. Ms. Weaks then introduced Ms. Luster. Ms. Luster began by talking about the mission of the Education and Prevention Section, which is "to eliminate underage and high-risk drinking by building the capacity for communities to educate individuals and prevent alcohol misuse." Ms. Luster added that college programming focuses on other drugs as well. Ms. Luster then gave an overview on what ABC has been doing over the past few years in terms of surveys, needs assessments and programming compilations. Ms. Luster then proceeded to go through survey data from a number of different resources. Next, Ms. Luster addressed substance use and its impact on students. Ms. Luster then summarized federal and state regulations dealing with drug and alcohol on college campuses. Ms. Luster discussed Virginia specific school survey responses, arrests and violations, and sanctions and their responses. Ms. Luster also discussed evidence-based strategies for addressing alcohol and other drugs abuse. Finally, Ms. Luster discussed some solutions in development by ABC and other state agencies.

Senator Marsden asked about the difference between wet and dry campuses. Ms. Weaks talked about the importance of data to understand these differences. She noted that most community colleges were dry. Senator Favola asked about the statewide other drug focus and why colleges did not focus on some other drugs. Ms. Weaks said time allocation of staff may be responsible for why all drugs are not being covered. Senator Favola followed up by asking if when allocating resources do universities use data to help out. Ms. Weaks said it varies by university depending on what type of data they collect. Senator Favola then asked if ABC has any specific requirements on what data is collected and what is required by law. Ms. Weaks stated no requirement besides Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) regulations. Commissioner Rehak asked about off campus arrests. Ms. Weaks stated that she has this information and would provide it to Commission members.

Ms. Atkinson presented the draft recommendations for this study. The members discussed the recommendations. The members asked about including a reporting date, working with the medical community, focusing on peer-to-peer supports, and the importance of student groups. Ms. Atkinson highlighted the differences and capabilities of SCHEV vs ABC in being tasked with these recommendations. The draft recommendations will be made available for public comment through Wednesday, November 1, 2018. The presentation and draft recommendations can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the September 20 meeting tab.

### **III. Children's Cabinet Presentation to Commission on Youth**

*Dr. Bill Hazel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources*

*Dr. Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education*

*Recommendations on Trauma Informed Care: Amy M. Atkinson*

Senator Favola introduced the topic and both speakers. Senator Favola reminded the Commission and audience about the previous work the Commission has done with trauma with respect to the Family Impact Seminar back in May 2017.

Dr. Trent outlined her presentation including the children's cabinet and trauma informed care. She also introduced her staff. The cabinet is solely dedicated to the education, health, safety, and welfare of Virginia's children. Dr. Trent described how the cabinet has worked to align the pockets of excellence in VA. She also described the cabinet's approach, the work they do, and the state agency liaison teams the cabinet works with. Dr. Trent further described the work being done in Petersburg and Richmond (work in Richmond started late spring of 2017) on the challenged schools initiative. Next, Dr. Trent described the classrooms not courtrooms initiative. Also, Dr. Trent noted that the cabinet is using a fiscal map to find duplication and ways to better direct resources.

Dr. Hazel presented on trauma informed care. He defined trauma for the Commission and described adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their consequences. Dr. Hazel introduced the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) whose purpose is to raise and distribute funds for the prevention and treatment of family violence across the lifespan.

Senator Marsden asked about whether the relationship between students with school resource officers in the school is working. Dr. Hazel said it is important to have resources available to school resource officers and training. Senator Favola suggested the possibility of having a social worker or mental health counselor at every school.

Cindy Cave from DOE described school resource officer (SRO) voluntary training and the work they do building relationships in the schools. Senator Marsden suggested the possibility of having a more formal study of the current school resource officer set-up.

Ms. Atkinson presented the draft recommendations for this study. The members discussed the recommendations. The draft recommendations will be made available for public comment through Wednesday, November 1, 2018. The presentation and draft recommendations can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the September 20 meeting tab.

#### **IV. Reporting of Child Protective Service Cases to Virginia's Public Schools**

*Carl E. Ayers, MSW, Director, Division of Family Services,*

*Virginia Department of Social Services*

*Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Department of Education*

Senator Favola explained the background regarding the request for this presentation. She then introduced both speakers.

Mr. Ayers began by explaining the basic CPS appeals process. He explained the validity criteria for what is needed to trigger a CPS investigation. Delegate Bell asked where complaints come from, and Mr. Ayers explained that complaints can come from many different sources and can be anonymous. Mr. Ayers then explained the criteria for a founded complaint for a standard CPS case vs. a designated out-of-family teacher. Mr. Ayers additionally explained how the notification process to the local school board works when a founded complaint occurs. He further explained that a person who has a founded complaint against him or her will not appear in the central registry until all administrative appeals have been exhausted.

Ms. Pitts explained from what sources the DOE licensure division hears reports of misconduct from. They come from DSS, the courts in certain cases, the public, newspapers, school divisions and National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education (NASDTEC) (which DOE also reports out to). Ms. Pitts further detailed the ways that a complaint can go through the license review process. Delegate Bell asked about cancellation of a license vs. revocation. Ms. Pitts described how cancellation ends an investigation, but it has the same effect as revocation. Senator Marsden asked if local schools are required to get letter of reference from prior schools or employers on an application for employment or licensure. Ms. Pitts responded no for licensure, however local schools may do reference checks. Commissioner Delaney asked about if there is a way to flag or note active licenses that are under investigation while being respectful of due process concerns. Ms. Pitts noted that this is a potential policy discussion.

Senator Favola requested that Commission staff work on recommendations regarding the concerns brought to light by DSS and DOE's presentation for discussion at a future meeting and for public comment.

The presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the September 20 meeting tab.

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05p.m.