

**Joint Subcommittee Studying Strategies and Models for
Reducing Substance Abuse in the Commonwealth
DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ✧ **Resolution** continuing the Joint Subcommittee for an additional year to allow time for additional investigation and development of additional recommendations. If the Joint Subcommittee is continued, the Joint Subcommittee should work together with the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards and other stakeholders to develop a more comprehensive list of priorities for improvement of substance abuse treatment and prevention services in the Commonwealth.
- ✧ **Resolution** recognizing and supporting the work of the Substance Abuse Services Council's Data Collection Work Group and should request that the work group continue its work during 2010.
- ✧ **Resolution** encouraging the Department of Health Professions to continue to pursue interoperability between Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program and similar programs in other states.
- ✧ **Resolution** requesting a report on the use of the Prescription Monitoring Program by physicians and pharmacists, and information on prescribers' and pharmacists' response to letters notifying them of unusual activity, to be made available to the General Assembly by December 1 of 2011. The Joint Subcommittee should recommend that the information contained in the report be used to evaluate whether the General Assembly should enact legislation to require all prescribers and pharmacists to run a profile of patients when prescribing or filling prescriptions for certain types of medications (Schedule III or higher). The Joint Subcommittee should recommend that information contained in the report also be used to evaluate whether legislation should be adopted to require prescribers or pharmacists whose prescribing or prescription filling practices reach a certain threshold be required to present information to the Board of Medicine regarding their practices in an informal, non-punitive setting, and, where the Board concludes that the prescriber's or pharmacist's practices warrant, required to attend an educational program intended to increase awareness of and knowledge about pain management, prescription drug abuse and preventing prescription drug abuse.
- ✧ **Resolution** request the Bureau of Insurance or other appropriate agency analyze the federal legislation and its impact on state insurance laws and practices, take steps to educate service providers, insurance providers, and members of the public regarding the impact of the federal legislation, and prepare advanced guidance for treatment providers, counselors, and state managed care contractors regarding the effect of the federal legislation.
- ✧ **Resolution** requesting a study of the impact of the federal addiction and mental health benefit parity requirements in the Commonwealth, including information on complaints about discriminatory or inappropriate practices, to be prepared by the appropriate agencies and submitted to the General Assembly.
- ✧ **Resolution** requesting information and recommendations from the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services regarding ways to increase utilization of currently allocated Medicaid funds for substance abuse treatment services.
- ✧ **Resolution** requesting information about the work of recovery organizations and community services boards funded through five DBHDS grants and one federal grant, and should consider

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providing additional funding to support these programs if necessary or to encourage development of new programs.

- ✧ **Letter** encouraging the Virginia Congressional Delegation to take action to eliminate or increase the bed limit imposed on residential services providers by federal Medicaid rules and regulations.
- ✧ **Legislation** establishing a new commission to continue the work initiated by the Joint Subcommittee in the future including continued evaluation of the substance abuse treatment and prevention activities in the Commonwealth to reducing the human and fiscal costs of substance abuse in the Commonwealth, or allocate such responsibility to an existing commission, committee, or other body.
- ✧ **Legislation** amending the Code of Virginia to clarify rules governing sharing of information contained in the Prescription Monitoring Program between prescribers and pharmacists, so that it is clear that pharmacists and prescribers may share information contained in the Prescription Monitoring Program in order to identify situations that may require further attention.
- ✧ **Legislation** amending the Code of Virginia be amended to ensure that pharmacists working in pharmacies located in the Commonwealth of Virginia cannot be prevented from accessing the Prescription Monitoring Program.
- ✧ **Legislation** requiring the Medical Examiner to collect information about the types of medications and sources of medications found at the scene of a drug overdose death.
- ✧ **Legislation** requiring medical schools to provide a certain number of hours of education and training on the topics of pain management, prescription drug abuse, and substance abuse treatment and prevention generally for all graduates.
- ✧ **Legislation** requiring physicians to complete a certain number of hours of Continuing Medical Education on the topic of pain management, prescription drug abuse, and substance abuse treatment and prevention generally.
- ✧ **Legislation** amending Code of Virginia to remove the requirement for authorization of the General Assembly prior to establishment of a drug court.
- ✧ **Legislation** requiring physicians providing office-based MAT ensure that patients are receiving the necessary wrap-around and support services
- ✧ **Legislation** creating student assistance professional certification program to establish standards for the training and qualification of school-based student assistance professionals.
- ✧ **Legislation** establishing requirements and standards for school-based student assistance programs in the Commonwealth.
- ✧ **Legislation** requiring a statewide school-based survey of students to ensure collection of information about substance use and abuse trends, to inform school, community, and state-wide treatment and prevention service planning and resource allocation. The survey should be

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anonymous, and should collect information from randomly selected schools/classes in every school district in the Commonwealth.

- ✧ **Legislation** requiring localities to develop community wide prevention plans that focus on the identification and mitigation of all risk factors that contribute to substance abuse across all age groups. Such plans should be designed to address needs and risks identified through a community needs assessment. Development of these plans should include a wide range of stakeholders.
- ✧ **Legislation** to increase the excise tax on alcohol and require that the additional revenues received as a result of this increase be allocated to a Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services Trust Fund, to be used for funding substance abuse treatment and prevention services in the Commonwealth.
- ✧ **Legislation** establishing a mechanism whereby recovery organizations may be reimbursed by the Commonwealth for services provided.
- ✧ **Legislation** implementing a substance abuse services voucher model.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** supporting development of jail-based recovery programs coupled with reentry services for persons returning to the community following a period of incarceration.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** providing funding for pilot programs throughout the Commonwealth to develop additional information about the costs and benefits of jail-based recovery and reentry services.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** funding portions of the SABRE program identified as offering benefits in reducing substance abuse in the Commonwealth, and **legislation** amending the enabling legislation to place responsibility for assessment and screening with community services boards, and to include participation of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources together with the Secretary of Public Safety.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** providing funding to ensure that all CSBs are able to offer MAT together with the necessary wrap-around and support services as a treatment option for persons for whom it is medically appropriate treatment option, either by offering MAT together with wrap-around and support services through the CSB or by partnering with physicians in the community to offer office-based MAT together with necessary wrap-around and support services offered through the CSB. Additionally, the General Assembly should require the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to take steps to ensure that CSBs inform all persons for whom MAT is an appropriate treatment option aware of MAT as a treatment option
- ✧ **Budget amendment** providing funding to support CSBs currently providing MAT together with necessary wrap-around and support services and to fund additional pilot programs at CSBs not currently offering MAT together with necessary wrap-around and support services to increase the availability of this treatment option in regions of the state in which it is not currently available (Alternative to the above).

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- ✧ **Budget amendment** providing to create student assistance professional positions in the Commonwealth Schools, especially high schools and middle schools, to ensure that individuals trained and prepared to provide information and resources and prevention, identification, and screening services, and link parents and children in need of substance abuse services to providers are available in all schools.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** allocating funds from the General Fund to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to fund treatment and prevention services in the Commonwealth.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** requiring that funds received as a result of new Sunday openings of ABC stores be allocated to a Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services Trust Fund, to be used for funding substance abuse treatment and prevention services in the Commonwealth.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** requiring that funds received as a result of the opening of new ABC stores in the Commonwealth be allocated to a Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services Trust Fund, to be used for funding substance abuse treatment and prevention services in the Commonwealth.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** providing funding for a full range of treatment services, including services for adolescents, pregnant and parenting women, and the elderly.
- ✧ **Budget amendment** providing funding to support a full range of prevention services statewide.