



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

**BOARD DINNER MEETING
MINUTES**

(per [Bylaws](#), Article 5.c.)

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express Meeting Room
404 Sunchase Blvd, Farmville, VA 23901

	<p>Members Present: Elizabeth Hilscher, Chair; Kendall Lee, Vice Chair; Blake Andis; Varun Choudhary; Rebecca Graser; Cindy Lamb; Christopher Olivo.</p> <p>Members Absent: Moira Mazzi; Sandra Price-Stroble.</p> <p>Staff Present: Meghan McGuire; Ruth Anne Walker.</p> <p>Invited Guests: Melissa Lucy, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director</p>
6:00	<p>Welcome and Introductions At 6:00 p.m., Elizabeth Hilscher, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Meghan McGuire introduced Melissa Lucy, CEO/Executive Director, Horizon Behavioral Health.</p>
6:10	<p>Dinner</p>
6:30	<p>Presentation – Horizons Behavioral Health Melissa Lucy provided an overview of the portfolio of services provided by Horizon, including evidenced-based practices. Ms. Lucy provided an in depth look at clinical services and related outcomes. School and drug court initiatives were highlighted. Upcoming efforts include a license for mental health skill building, enhancement and expansion of recovery services, and the development of a behavioral health court docket.</p>
7:10	<p>Comments/Discussion Members asked a few clarifying comments of Ms. Lucy regarding information presented.</p>

7:25	Closing Remarks Ms. Hilscher thanked Ms. Lucy for her presentation to the members.
7:30	Adjournment Ms. Hilscher adjourned the dinner meeting at 7:30 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Regular Meeting DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

DBHDS Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, Auditorium
5001 East Patrick Henry Hwy, Burkeville, VA 23922

*This meeting was held in person with a physical quorum present,
with electronic or phone connection available. A recording of the meeting is available.*

Members Present	Elizabeth Hilscher, Chair; Kendall Lee, Vice Chair; R. Blake Andis; Varun Choudhary; Rebecca Graser; Moira Mazzi (electronic); and Christopher Olivo.
Members Absent	Sandra Price-Stroble.
Staff Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royace Baugh, VCBR Director of Residential Services. • Jae Benz, Licensing Director. • Jesus Garcia, Regulatory Research Specialist. • Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director. • Emma Lowry, PGH Director. • Madelyn Lent, Policy Manager. • Josie Mace, Legislative Affairs Director. • Meghan McGuire, Deputy Commissioner, Policy and Public Affairs. • Sarah Moore, Early Intervention Monitoring Consultant (South Central and Southwest). • Nathan Miles, Chief Financial Officer. • Dev Nair, Assistant Commissioner, Provider Management. • Heather Norton, Assistant Commissioner, Developmental Services. • Kelly Parker-Covington, VCBR Clinical Director. • Susan Puglisi, Regulatory Research Specialist. • Nelson Smith, Commissioner. • Ruth Anne Walker, Regulatory Affairs Director and State Board Liaison. • Jeremiah Washington, Legislative Manager. • Jason Wilson, VCBR Facility Director.
Invited Guests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Faison, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards.
Other Guests:	Virtual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Robertson, DARS. • Meghan Cox, DARS • Stephanie Showalter. • LeVar Bowers. • Martin Mash.
Call to Order and Introductions	At 9:33 a.m., Elizabeth Hilscher, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. A quorum of seven members was physically present, with another member participating remotely. Ms. Hilscher welcomed new DBHDS employees Jesus Garcia and Jeremiah Washington.

Approval of Agenda	<i>At 9:35 a.m. the State Board voted to adopt the September 27, 2023, agenda. On a motion by Varun Choudhary and a second by Cindy Lamb, the agenda was approved.</i>
Approval of Draft Minutes	<i>At 9:37 a.m., on a motion by Christopher Olivo and a second by Kendall Lee, the July 11, 2023, biennial planning meeting, nominating committee meeting, and the July 12, 2023, regular meeting minutes were approved as final en bloc.</i>
Commissioner's Report	<p>At 10:07 a.m., Commissioner Nelson Smith gave his report, updating the State Board on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency rebranding. • 988 Marketing Launch. • DBHDS Workforce Summit. • Right Help, Right Now Plan. • DOJ Settlement Agreement updates. • DD Medicaid Waiver slots. <p>Commissioner Smith spoke about the new logo for DBHDS, the 988 Hotline marketing phase, and updates on the Right Help Right Now initiative, the Governor's statewide plan for behavioral health.</p>
Facility Tours	At 10:25 a.m., Ruth Anne Walker announced that the meeting would suspend while board members toured portions of both the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR), with Jason Wilson, Facility Director, and Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH), with PGH Director Dr. Emma Lowry. The meeting would resume at approximately 12:30 p.m. following the tours and a brief break for lunch.
Lunch: Break and Collect Lunch	<i>A brief lunch break was held from 12:13 p.m. to 12:22 p.m.</i>
Facility Presentation: PGH	<p>At 12:22 p.m., Emma Lowry, Director of PGH, reported that PGH first opened as a tuberculosis facility running from 1918 to 1965. DBHDS purchased the facility in 1967 and opened PGH. PGH is a 123-bed geropsychiatric hospital, exclusively treating older adults (65+ years). Dr. Lowry also reported on the catchment area of patients. A change in recent years is that most patients are involuntarily admitted under a temporary detention order (TDO).</p> <p>Dr. Lowry reviewed the various clinical services for individuals receiving hospital services. Inpatient services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatry, psychology, and social work. • Internal medicine and nursing. • Speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. <p>Dr. Lowry reviewed the PGH mission and vision. She highlighted the changes that came about due to the 2014 "bed of last resort" legislation. There was an increase in the admission rate, with 37% of new admissions being forensic patients. Megan McGuire asked about patients characteristics and needs before the "bed of last resort" legislation. Dr. Lowry responded that admissions came from non-emergency rooms, but they needed long-term care. Therefore, they were sent to PGH or another state hospital because of behavioral issues.</p>

	<p>Dr. Lowry highlighted the average length of stay. PGH is working on obtaining certification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). The staffing challenges faced by PGH are staffing, in part due to the more rural location, unqualified applicants, and difficulties with staff turnover and retention. As PGH is a building with some age, major improvements coming forward include a new HVAC system, parking and road investments, and exploring new vending options for employees due to the more remote location.</p>
<p>Facility Presentation: VCBR</p>	<p>At 12:52 p.m., Jason Wilson, Facility Director, and Kelly Parker, Clinical Director, reported that the program first opened in 2003 in Petersburg, and then moved to Burkesville in 2008. VCBR is a unique facility as it is the only one of its kind in Virginia. VCBR houses persons deemed sexually violent predators (SVP) who are civilly committed to the facility. Persons in the program come directly from the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC), which brings challenges of contraband, criminal acts, and that residents' focus may be on being released rather than being truthful about progressive change through rehabilitation efforts.</p> <p>Mr. Wilson reported that there are 375 male residents at VCBR, and the first 2 female residents who are currently housed at Central State Hospital. Due to statutory changes in 2006, there was a clear increase of those deemed SVP and thus an increase in facility census. The new second campus facility is nearing completion.</p> <p>Primary services provided are treatment and rehabilitation, security, medical services, and vocational and education services. VCBR offers its treatment programs in three phases. Kelly Parker spoke about the treatment program and the specifics for those three phases. Mr. Wilson talked about the review of commitment and conditional release for persons receiving rehabilitation services.</p> <p>Mr. Wilson highlighted the expansion of VCBR. VCBR is estimating to employ 1,098 at full capacity after expansion. Currently, there are 37 vacancies. The challenges in employment is with direct care staff positions, the more remote location, and finding staff to cover new areas in the new facility. VCBR received the U.S. Green Building Council – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Rating. LEED building certification is for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings, which offer environmental, social, and governance benefits.</p> <p>Cindy Lamb asked about the CARF accreditation. Mr. Wilson explained that CARF provides oversight on the quality of services provided, giving an external look into the performance management and performance improvement to VCBR. Blake Andis asked about sexual reoffending. Mr. Wilson responded that sexual reoffending is at 2.6%, with about 40% of returns coming from substance abuse rather than sexual reoffending. Other reasons for returns to VCBR are housing issues, and violations accrue. Kendall Lee asked if VCBR partners with community partners or other agencies when residents leave. Mr. Wilson stated VCBR works with outside agencies to provide mental health support and case management duties. VCBR hopes to partner with more community stakeholders to better serve the population.</p>

<p>Update: Virginia Association of Community Services Boards</p>	<p>At 1:24 p.m., Jennifer Faison, Executive Director, VACSB, reported on the association’s activities. With the budget that was just signed for 2023, CSBs received \$18 million for support and compensation. There is an increase in DD Medicaid Waiver slots. Along with those waiver slots, group homes (REACH homes) are getting a 12.5% rate increase. Ms. Faison reported that the final three steps of STEP-VA were funded. Ms. Faison reported that there was a \$30 million investment on permanent housing slots. This will help hospital and crisis avoidance.</p> <p>The CSBs will begin planning their budget priorities for the biennium budget at the CSB Fall conference in Roanoke the following week. The CSB executive directors will be conducting outreach to the General Assembly due to a large amount of turnover in the legislature. Local CSBs have been reaching out to all candidates for office, especially with those new to state government.</p> <p>Rebecca Graser asked about funding STEP-VA and inflation regarding that funding. Ms. Faison replied that while all parts of STEP-VA have been funded, the first parts of STEP-VA have not seen increases in funding. The funding needed will help continue those services.</p>
<p>2023 Post-Session/2024 Pre-Session Updates</p>	<p>A. Budget</p> <p>At 1:40 p.m., Nathan Miles, Chief Financial Officer, reported there is a passed budget. Mr. Miles reviewed the process of the biennial budget. Mr. Miles reported that there is a \$86.7 million funding for the Crisis System Transformation. There is a \$64.3 million funding for Community Services. There is \$4.5 million funding for Facilities and Diversion Services. Mr. Miles mentioned other notable items regarding cross-agencies funding for DMAS, DMAS, DCJS, VHD, and the General Government. Lastly, Mr. Miles updated the Board on upcoming important dates regarding the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.</p> <p>B. Legislative</p> <p>At 10:05 a.m., Ms. Josie Mace, Legislative Affairs Director, reported that since the last meeting, all legislative proposals were sent to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources for consideration. They are still under review.</p> <p>Ms. Mace also reported that the Legislative Affairs Office is currently planning an outreach project for November, as one third of the General Assembly will be new to state government.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>A. Policy and Evaluation</p> <p>At 1:52 p.m., Ms. Hilscher segued to Dr. Lee to report on the Policy and Evaluation Committee. Dr. Lee reported that the committee first reviewed the committee’s charge, and then the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1004(SYS083-7 Prevention Services. • 1015(SYS)86-22 Services for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders. • 1036(SYS)05-3 Vision Statement. • 4010(CSB)83-6 Local Match Requirements for Community Services Boards.

	<p>There were some recommended changes to those policies, to be proposed in the next meeting. Mr. Lee mentioned that there will be potential actions needed from the Board at the next meeting.</p> <p>B. Planning and Budget At 1:48 p.m., Ruth Anne Walker reported that the Code-required updates to the Bylaws of the Board were reviewed by the committee. The Board will receive a draft for consideration in the December meeting. The draft will be sent with the required 30-day review prior to the meeting. The committee reviewed the planned topics for future meetings using the Board’s new biennium priorities approved at the July meeting.</p>
<p>Regulatory Actions</p>	<p>At 9:38 a.m., Ms. Walker asked for approval of the following regulatory actions:</p> <p>I. Final: FFPSA [Regulations for Children’s Residential Facilities, 12VAC35-46] <i>On a motion from Cindy Lamb and a second by Mr. Olivo, the final stage was approved.</i></p> <p>II. Revised Proposed Language IFSP [Operation of the Individual and Family Support Program, 12VAC35-230] Ms. Walker provided background on the revised language. The DOJ Settlement Agreement with Virginia requires this process must be vetted annually. This language is included in the Appropriation Act authorizing the regulatory action. However, it is impossible as currently worded to produce a Document Incorporated by Reference (DIBR) in one year and still have the opportunity for stakeholder input in its development. Therefore, these amendments allowed a path for the annual development process but removed the need for a DIBR. Heather Norton, Assistant Commissioner, Development Services, was available for any questions. <i>On a motion by Varun Choudhary and a second by Mr. Olivo, the action was approved.</i></p> <p>III. Initiate periodic review: Part C [Requirements for Virginia Early Intervention System, 12VAC35-225] Ms. Walker provided a summary explanation on the periodic review process. Sarah Moore was available for any questions. <i>On a motion by Mr. Lee and a second by Mr. Choudhary, the action was approved.</i></p> <p>IV. Regulatory Activity Status Update. Ms. Walker directed members to the status matrix of all current actions and drafts in progress.</p>
<p>Update: Clinical Operations</p>	<p>At 2.00 p.m., Dr. Alexis Ablasca, Chief Clinical Officer and Senior Clinical Advisor for the Governor’s Right Help, Right Now Behavioral Health Transformation Plan, reported on the Division of the Chief Clinical Officer. The division started in 2018 and since then expanded its role to provide clinical subject matter expertise across</p>

	<p>the disability program areas and established a broader vision for the quality management for the agency. There are four main clinical areas: Clinical Quality Management, Office of Quality Assurance and Healthcare Compliance, Mortality Review, and COVID-19 Mitigation.</p> <p>Dr. Aplasca gave a detailed overview of the programs and operations of each team within the division.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to a reorganization from Commissioner Smith, the Office of Quality Assurance and Healthcare Compliance was established. The office establishes the department's compliance with its own regulation, policies, and procedures. • Another change due to the reorganization, the Office of COVID-19 Mitigation Team was established. Funded through 2025 through federal funding and other funding, the team is made up of infection preventionists, epidemiologist, and community educators. This team's goal is to increase access to behavioral health services by enhancing infection control. • Last, the Medical Director of Developmental Disability Services was also created. This role is focusing on the quality of care and capacity for community providers to service those individuals. This role will expand the telehealth system into state facilities to increase timely access. <p>Dr. Aplasca went over the Right Help, Right Now Plan with the Board, describing the work done to date, the structure and organization, and key achievements of RHRN. <i>Presentation available upon request.</i></p>
<p>State Human Rights Committee</p>	<p>At 2:29 p.m., Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director, presented, with the SHRC Chair, David Boehm. Mr. Boehm addressed the Board. Ms. Goldman reported that the SHRC met nine times in 2022 and outlined the SHRC work plan. Ms. Goldman presented how the Office of Human Rights has stayed proactive and provided protective actions, like issuing citations and violation letters, and conducting 23 statewide training seminars.</p> <p>Ms. Goldman talked about the impact of COVID-19. Working as volunteers, before the pandemic there were 26 LHRCs with 150 LHRC volunteers. Post pandemic, as of January 2022, there were 16 LHRCs, with 85 volunteer LHRC members. Committees were concentrated in the community due to DBHDS-facilities inability to host meetings.</p> <p>Ms. Goldman highlighted OHR programs. Some of the highlights were the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHRC Training Initiative. • Facility Operations Team. • DBHDS-Operated Facility Violation Letter Process. • Substantiated Abuse or Neglect Response. • Coordination with Protective Services. • System-wide Provider Training Initiatives.. <p>Ms. Goldman reported the amount of abuse and complaint reports that were filed in FY23.</p>

Public Comment	At 2:59 p.m., Ms. Hilscher stated a period for public comment was included on the draft agenda, but there were no citizens signed up to speak, nor any present.
Miscellaneous	Liaison Updates: Confirmation of New Assigned Area. At 9:51 a.m., Ruth Anne Walker explained the Board Liaison role as one of serving as linkages between the Board, state facilities, and CSBs around their home regions. Board members confirmed their assignments and areas they cover.
Other Business	Planned Board Topics Ms. Walker shared the planned board topics chart as reviewed by the Planning and Budget Committee. Next Meeting: December 6, 2023.
Adjournment	There being no other business, Ms. Hilscher adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	Location
2023	
December 6 (Wed)	Central Office, Richmond
2024	
April 3 (Wed)	Catawba Hospital, Catawba
July 17 (Wed)	Eastern State Hospital Williamsburg
September 25 (Wed)	Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Danville
December 11 (Wed)	Central Office, Richmond
2025	
April 2 (Wed)	<i>TBD but not Richmond</i>
July 9 (Wed)	Central Office, Richmond

STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Planning and Budget Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

8:30-9:25 AM

DBHDS PIEDMONT GERIATRIC HOSPITAL, AUDITORIUM
5001 EAST PATRICK HENRY HWY, BURKEVILLE, VA 23922

*This meeting was held in person with a physical quorum present,
with electronic or phone connection available. A recording of the meeting is available.*

Members Present: Elizabeth Hilscher, Board and Committee Chair; R. Blake Andis; Cindy Lamb; Christopher Olivo.

Members Absent: (none).

Staff Present: Jesus Garcia; Ruth Anne Walker.

I. Call to Order

At 8:44 a.m., Elizabeth Hilscher called the meeting to order and announced a was quorum present.

II. Welcome and Introductions

At 8:45 a.m., Ms. Hilscher welcomed all present.

III. Adoption of Minutes, March 29, 2023

At 8:47 a.m., on a motion from Christopher Olivo and a second from Blake Andis the meeting minutes from July 12, 2023, were adopted unanimously.

IV. Adoption of Agenda, September 27, 2023

At 8:48 a.m., on a motion from Christopher Olivo and a second from Cindy Lamb the agenda was adopted unanimously.

- V. Standing Item:** *Identification of services and support needs, critical issues, strategic responses, and resource requirements to be included in long-range plans; work with the department to obtain, review, and respond to public comments on draft plans; and monitor department progress in implementing long-range programs and plans. Ensure that the agency's budget priorities and submission packages reflect State Board policies and shall, through the Board's biennial planning retreat, review and comment on major funding issues affecting the behavioral health and developmental services system, in accordance with procedures established in POLICY 2010 (ADM ST BD) 10-1.*

A. Review from the July 11, 2023, Biennial Planning Meeting: Draft priorities for the biennium and draft topic areas for board meeting updates September 2023 - July 2025.

At 8:50 a.m. Ms. Hilscher explained that it is typical for the committee to review the draft language from the biennial planning meeting before it goes to the full board to have an opportunity to look for any needed corrections or edits.

Members reviewed the list of draft priorities developed at the biennial planning meeting and made recommended edits for changes, including an edit regarding compensation and consideration of incorporation of best practices into Virginia's temporary detention order law through comparison of other states laws.

VI. Other Business

A. Discuss 2023 expected changes to the Bylaws.

At 8:56 a.m., Ms. Walker presented draft changes to the Bylaws relating to changes in state law regarding electronic meetings. A revised draft of revisions members gave at the July meeting were reflected. Ms. Walker shared several samples of an electronic meeting policy from other state agencies and walked members through certain variations for their preference. Such a policy is required to conform to changes in state law under the Freedom of Information Act. The committee would receive final draft amendments by email following this meeting for comment, the chair would confirm a final draft with staff, it would be sent to the Office of the Attorney General, and the full board would receive the final draft at least 30 days before a vote on December 6, 2023.

On a motion by Cindy Lamb and a second by Blake Andis, the committee approved those next steps to proceed.

B. State Board Budget Quarterly Report. Handout

At 9:22 a.m., the board's quarterly budget report was discussed but a copy would be sent after the meeting.

VII. Next Steps:

A. Standing Item: Report Out

Updates from committee planning activities would be reported out to the Board in the regular meeting.

B. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2023.

C. Other Business

Ms. Walker introduced Jesus Garcia, the new part-time Regulatory Research Specialist.

VIII. Adjournment

At 9:25 a.m., Ms. Hilscher adjourned the meeting.

STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Policy and Evaluation Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

8:30-9:25 AM

DBHDS PIEDMONT GERIATRIC HOSPITAL, SMALL MEETING ROOM
5001 EAST PATRICK HENRY HWY, BURKEVILLE, VA 23922

*This meeting was held in person with a physical quorum present,
with electronic or phone connection available. A recording of the meeting is available.*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Varun Choudhary, Rebecca Graser, Kendall Lee, Moira Mazzi (electronic).
DBHDS STAFF PRESENT: Josie Mace, Committee Staff; Madelyn Lent DBHDS Policy Manager, ,
Jeremiah Washington, DBHDS Legislative Manager.
GUESTS PRESENT: Chris Fleury, Medical Society of Virginia.

I. Call to Order [Becky Graser, Committee Chair]

Mr. Kendall Lee called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

II. Welcome and Introductions [Becky Graser] (5 min)

Ms. Graser moved to approve the minutes from the July Meeting, Varun Choudhary seconded.

III. Review of Committee Charge and Policy Review Plan for FY2024. [Kendall Lee and Josie Mace] (40 min)

Mr. Lee and Ms. Mace reviewed the purpose and charge of the Policy Committee with Members. Ms. Mace presented the policy review schedule through 2025.

IV. Presentation of Policies for Discussion [Kendall and Josie] (30 min)

A. 1004(SYS)83-7 Prevention Services (Revisions)

There were no revisions for this policy.

B. 1015(SYS)86-22 Services for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders (Revisions)

Ms. Mace reviewed revisions with committee members; Mr. Lee and Ms. Graser provided additional suggestions for revision, which will be reviewed before the next meeting.

C. 1036(SYS)05-3 Vision Statement (Background)

Ms. Mace provided background on the policy.

D. 4010(CSB)83-6 Local Match Requirements for Community Services Boards (Background)

Ms. Mace provided background on the policy. Members requested more detailed information, so additional background will be provided at the December meeting.

V. Next Quarterly Meeting: December 6, 2023

VI. Other Business (10 min)

VII. Adjournment.

All current policies of the State Board are here: <https://dbhds.virginia.gov/about-dbhds/Boards-Councils/state-board-of-BHDS/bhds-policies/>.