



**Joint Commission on Health Care**

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Capitol Building – Senate Room 3

**Members Present**

Delegate David L Bulova

Delegate T. Scott Garrett

Delegate Kaye Kory

Delegate John M. O’Bannon, III

Delegate Christopher K. Peace

Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler

Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr., Chair

Senator Siobhan S. Dunnavant

Senator John S. Edwards

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Senator David R. Suetterlein

**Members Participating by Conference Call**

Delegate Christopher P. Stolle

Senator Glenn H. Sturtevant

**Members Absent**

Delegate Benjamin L. Cline

Delegate Patrick A. Hope

Delegate Riley E. Ingram

Senator George L. Barker

Senator Rosalyn R. Dance

**Staff Present**

Michele Chesser

Paula Margolis

Andrew Mitchell

Stephen Weiss

Agnes Dymora

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**Call to Order**

Senator Carrico called the Joint Commission meeting to order, provided welcoming comments and introduced Dr. Chesser, Executive Director of the JCHC, who presented the JCHC work plan for 2017.

**Presentation by Michele Chesser**

Dr. Chesser discussed some changes that will be implemented this year such as members receiving the presentations two weekdays in advance of the meeting as well as eliminating two subcommittee meetings and replacing them with full JCHC meetings. She then presented the meeting schedule for the Commission and its two subcommittees.

<u>Date</u>	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>	<u>1:00 p.m.</u>
May 23	JCHC	
August 22	JCHC	HL/HS Subcommittee
September 19	JCHC	JCHC
October 17	JCHC	BHC Subcommittee
November 21	JCHC (decision matrix)	

Dr. Chesser discussed all the studies that will be conducted by staff and presented to Commission members later this year:

- 1) **Options for Increasing Use of Telemental Health Services in Virginia.** HB 1500 Item 30B directs the JCHC to study options for increasing the use of telemental health services in the Commonwealth, including the issues and recommendations set forth in the report of the Telemental Health Work Group of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century.

Staff: Paula Margolis

- 2) **Creation of a Registry of Abuse or Neglect Cases for the Building Independence, Family and Individual Supports, and Community Living Waiver Programs in Virginia.** HJ 675 directs the JCHC to study creation of a registry of cases of abuse or neglect of an individual receiving services in one of the waiver programs by a service provider.

Staff: Paula Margolis

- 3) **Staffing Ratio Requirements for Assisted Living Facilities in Virginia.** SJ 266 requests JCHC identify and analyze current staff-to-resident ratio requirements for assisted living facilities and special care units. The commission should make recommendations for changes to such ratio requirements that would lead to better care and quality of life for residents, including recommendations regarding the total number and type of staff.

Staff: Paula Margolis

*There was discussion as to whether such policy already exists for nursing facilities and therefore, they should be included in the study. Steve Ford with Virginia Health Care Association stated that no such policy as far as required number of staff is established for nursing facilities but suggested that they do not need to be included in the study. A suggestion for studying whether Medicare payments influence these policies was made. Paula Margolis made comments on what she was able to find so far on this topic and stated that she will discuss with Senator Dance the specific requirements in this study.*

- 4) **Quality of Health Care Services in Virginia Jails and Prisons; and Impact of Requiring Community Service Boards to Provide Mental Health Services in Jails.** HJ 616 directs the JCHC to study the quality of health care services provided to inmates in jails and prisons in the Commonwealth. HJ 779 directs the JCHC to study the impact; including benefits, costs and barriers; of requiring community services boards (CSBs) to provide mental health services in jails.

Staff: Stephen Weiss

*A suggestion to look into researching Chicago Cook County jail's policies as well as policies in other states, was made by Delegate Peace.*

- 5) **Should Medigap Policies be Provided for Medicare Recipients Under the Age of 65 Years in Virginia?** JCHC received a letter of request from Senator Wagner during 2017 session which asked the commission to review issues related to providing access to Medigap policies by those who are disabled and under the age of 65 years.

Staff: Stephen Weiss

- 6) **Heroin Use in Virginia.** HJ 597 directs the JCHC to study heroin use in the Commonwealth, including the rates of use, the pathways that lead individuals to use, and initiatives focused on the prevention of heroin use and heroin overdose, including the use of naloxone.

Staff: Stephen Weiss

- 7) **Prevalence and Risks of ADHD Medications in Virginia.** HB 1500 Item 30A requests that the JCHC identify methods to raise awareness of risks related to the mental and physical health side effects of ADHD medication use and risk of drug addiction and to compile and track statistics regarding the number of children in Virginia schools who are diagnosed with ADHD or other similar conditions. The JCHC also was asked to determine methods used by other states and countries to limit antipsychotic use and the best methods for developing similar systems in Virginia. Finally the JCHC was asked to identify the incidence and prevalence of prescribing anti-psychotics for off-label use by general physicians and psychiatrists in Virginia.

Staff: Andrew Mitchell

- 8) **Medical Use of Cannabis and Health Effects.** Letter request from House Courts of Justice Committee requests that the JCHC study whether CBD and THC-A oils have psychoactive/detrimental effects, and are they beneficial in treating: intractable epilepsy, cancer, glaucoma, human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Crohn's disease, Alzheimer's disease, nail patella, cachexia or wasting syndrome, multiple sclerosis, or complex regional pain syndrome. In addition, HJ 578 directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the long-term effects of marijuana use on individuals and populations. In conducting its study, the Joint Commission shall review scientific studies, including studies of individuals in states that have legalized or decriminalized the use of marijuana for medical or recreational purposes, and other sources to determine the long-term effects of marijuana use on individuals.

Staff: Andrew Mitchell

*Delegate O'Bannon mentioned that the Crime Commission is also studying the subject of marijuana.*

- 9) **Sustainability of Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program.** SJ 285 directs the JCHC to study the sustainability of the Prescription Monitoring Program and identify potential funding sources for its future operation.

Staff: Andrew Mitchell

- 10) **Should Medical Aid-in-Dying be Legal in Virginia? (2 Year Study).** A letter of request from Delegate Kaye Kory, 2017 asks JCHC to review states that authorize medical aid-in-dying and answer the following questions: What has been the impact of informing patients about end-of-life options such as hospice care and palliative care? How have health care providers, systems and institutions acted to implement the law? - Using data from states that allow medical aid-in-dying, how many people would likely

utilize medical aid-in-dying if it became law in Virginia? Have people been coerced to ingest end-of-life medication? Have any of the states enacted protections to discourage or prevent coercion?

Staff: Michele Chesser

In addition to staff studies, the Commission and subcommittees will hear from several presenters, including:

- The Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources
- Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century Subcommittee
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Virginia Department of Corrections
- Virginia Health Innovation
- Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit at DARS
- Life-Sustaining Treatment Guidelines Working Group
- Virginia Health Care Foundation
- Minnesota Multi State Alliance

\*\*Additional guest presenters may be added in the next few weeks. \*\*

A suggestion was made by Delegate Garrett to move the studies which require funding to be presented in the first meetings rather than later in the year.

A vote was taken on the entire work plan that was presented and was approved unanimously by all the members that were present.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. The next Commission meeting will be held August 22, 2017.

Electronic Meeting: Yes  
Prepared by: Agnes Dymora  
Date: May 25, 2017