

Community Builders Network of Virginia

Meeting with Governor-elect Bob McDonnell's Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Health and Human Resources Transition Committee

Freddie Simons, Director, Community Builders Network of Virginia was invited to participate in a stakeholder meeting, on Dec. 10, 2009, with 11 other organizations, to provide input to the transition team of Governor – elect Bob McDonnell on issues related to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

The Transition Subcommittee was chaired by Mary Ann Bergeron, and included former Secretary of HHR, Jane Woods, and former CSB Executive Director, Candy Waller, as well as Atty. M. Cobb, Steve Horton, and Mary Lynn Barclay.

The following is a summary of the feedback provided by the Community Builders Network of Virginia, based on the questions presented.

1) Legislative proposals for 2010

A. Support statewide Youth Risk Behavior Survey to identify key risk and protective factors to guide resource allocation and program development strategies. Purpose is to optimize outcomes by reducing state costs for criminal justice and treatment expenses while improving outcomes for children, youth and families.

B. Support the change of language in the Code of Virginia which directs the Alcohol Beverage Control to allocate resources to the treatment of alcoholism to include the prevention and treatment of alcohol related illnesses.

C. To direct the DBHDS to allocate 20% of the state match of the federal SAPT Block Grant fund received for prevention services to prevention services.

2) Cost savings resulting from public private partnership opportunities.

A. Expand partnerships, through Community Services Boards and community-based coalitions, with volunteer community-based youth and faith-based volunteer organizations to impact greater numbers of youth and families throughout Virginia through the expanded use of evidenced-based primary prevention programs.

3) Top 3 items DBHDS could do to assist our organization.

A. Provide training and technical assistance funds to support statewide efforts to train and support the expansion of neighborhood level volunteer involvement to reduce drug and alcohol related use and support the reduction of all risk behaviors and the development of positive behaviors among youth.

B. DBHDS should prioritize additional new resources to high risk areas/populations and include specific performance requirements and evaluation data to document impact for continued funding.