

**COMMISSION ON VASAP
QUARTERLY MEETING**

December 8, 2023

Minutes

Attendance:

Commission Members:

Senator Richard H. Stuart, Chairman
Mr. John L. Saunders, Vice Chairman
Senator Scott A. Surovell
Delegate James A. Leftwich, Jr.
Delegate Don L. Scott, Jr.
Delegate Wren M. Williams
The Honorable Mary Jane Hall
The Honorable George D. Varoutsos
The Honorable Gino W. Williams
Ms. Margaret Steele
Ms. Krystal Hulette

Absent:

Ms. Pat Eggleston

Commission Staff

Ms. Angela Coleman, Executive Director
Ms. Issar Ali
Ms. EdQuina Bradley
Ms. Rosario Carrasquillo
Ms. Shelby Edwards
Mr. Glen Miller
Mr. Christopher Morris
Ms. Charlene Motley
Mr. Richard Phillips
Ms. LeAnne Turner

Office of the Attorney General

Ms. Janet Baugh

Time and Place

The quarterly meeting of the Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) was conducted in Senate Room A at the General Assembly Building in Richmond, Virginia on December 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Senator Richard H. Stuart, Chairman, presided and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Ms. Angela Coleman, Executive Director, called roll of the Commission Members.

Approval of the Minutes

The Honorable Gino W. Williams moved, and Mr. John L. Saunders, Vice Chairman, seconded the motion that the minutes from the September 15, 2023, Commission meeting be approved. All were in favor; none opposed.

Alexandria ASAP Update

Ms. Sarah Taylor, Assistant City Manager, Legislative Director, City of Alexandria conferenced in and provided an update regarding Alexandria ASAP. Ms. Taylor began by expressing gratitude to the Commission staff and Peninsula ASAP for their assistance with the program. Ms. Taylor reported Peninsula ASAP is currently staffing Alexandria ASAP and The City of Alexandria is paying the shortfall between fees collected and the cost to provide the services. While not currently in the budget, these funds are coming from the City Manager's Office and are being paid on a quarterly basis. Ms. Taylor advised their plan moving forward is to work during their budget cycle to determine how to reestablish the program in Alexandria with a permanent working space, full time staff, and classroom space. Ms. Taylor reported they are also working with the Alexandria City Attorney's Office and the Alexandria Clerks' Office to re-establish a policy board.

Ms. Taylor shared that their new Department of Community & Human Services (DCHS) headquarters is an option they are looking into for classroom space. The new headquarters is in a transit hub and has access to other city services and programs that clients may find useful. Ms. Taylor shared that the city manager is committed to moving forward and putting together a long-term plan for the citizens of Alexandria and that they are thankful for the level-set provided by Commission staff and Peninsula ASAP and are ready to pick the ball up and move it forward.

Senator Stuart requested clarification that Alexandria will be ready by April of 2024 to take back the program, Mr. Christopher Morris, Special Programs Coordinator, responded in the affirmative. The Honorable Mary Jane Hall asked if there are currently any Alexandria staff or if the program is still staffed by Peninsula. Mr. Morris responded that Peninsula has a part-time employee in Alexandria and there is a full-time Alexandria position posted that will hopefully transition over to a city position when Alexandria takes over.

DMV-VASAP Partnership

Ms. Angela Coleman along with Dr. Gerald Lackey, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and Tonya Blaine, Deputy Commissioner Field Operations Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles presented information on the possibility of office sharing between ASAP and DMV. ASAP and DMV would be housed in the same building; however, they each will be doing work specific to their client needs and not commingling any work duties. They are hoping to have a first pilot office sharing in Staunton. Senator Stuart expressed his support of the idea and questioned if there were any legal opinions or authorizations needed. Dr. Lackey reported that the Secretary of Transportation has expressed his support. Dr. Lackey and Ms. Coleman will work with Janet Baugh, who serves as the Attorney General Representative for both DMV and VASAP, to ensure that they are following all necessary protocols. Mr. John Saunders expressed his excitement at the potential to improve the customer experience while being fiscally sound.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Coleman presented the Executive Director's report.

Annual Holiday Statement

Ms. Coleman shared the 2023 VASAP Annual Holiday Statement and encouraged attendees to circulate it among other community groups as a reminder during the holiday season to promote wise choices.

Training Initiatives

Since the last Commission meeting, the inaugural leadership group has had four training sessions. Ms. Coleman provided an overview of what the four trainings entailed.

VASAP Policy Board Training was held on September 27, 2023. The policy board training was made available as a result of highway safety grant funding. Forty-four policy board members from across the Commonwealth were in attendance. Ms. Coleman expressed the hope to expand the training as the topics discussed are critical to the continued operation and stabilization of the ASAPs going forward.

Introduction of New Commission Staff

Ms. Coleman introduced Ms. Issar Ali, Field Services Specialist. Senator Stuart welcomed Ms. Ali.

Valley ASAP Update

Ms. Coleman provided a recap of the concerns with Valley ASAP discussed at the previous Commission meeting. The Honorable Christopher M. Billias, Chief Judge, 25th Judicial District, offered comments on Valley ASAP. Judge Billias reported services were not being provided as required at Valley ASAP which prompted him to contact Ms. Coleman. Judge Billias traveled to Richmond to meet with Ms. Coleman where he expressed his concerns and the concerns of his fellow Judges in the 25th Judicial District. He praised Ms. Coleman, stating the Commission is very privileged to have such a fantastic director. Judge Billias also praised Commission staff, and Ms. Krystal Hullette, Director of Court Community Corrections ASAP, for their work with Valley ASAP and serving the clients as intended. Judge Billias also expressed his support of the DMV partnership as Valley's finances are not enough to support the office and a creative solution was needed.

Ms. Coleman followed up with a reminder to those in attendance of the successful pilot project with the pairing of Alexandria and Peninsula ASAP and proposed for a similar project with Valley ASAP and Central Virginia ASAP. Ms. Coleman reported working with Central Virginia ASAP staff and their policy board on this project. Ms. Coleman shared that Central Virginia

ASAP along with Mr. Morris and court clerk staff have already begun looking to hire a full-time employee for Valley ASAP.

Ms. Coleman stated Commission staff is looking to duplicate the already successful partnership for those ASAPs experiencing declines in referrals or staffing to share administrative cost and to make sure the clients in the area continue to be serviced. Ms. Coleman reported Commission staff were on site at Valley ASAP last week to secure client files. Ms. Coleman shared that Central Virginia ASAP, and their policy board recognize the importance of continued services for the Valley ASAP service area.

Ms. Coleman proposed the establishment of a Commission subcommittee to proactively explore ideas and address potential challenges in programs. The aim is to initiate discussions on potential mergers and commence them in advance, ensuring a proactive approach to potential difficulties. Ms. Coleman also thanked Judge Billias and his staff for their efforts in working with Commission staff to keep things running with Valley ASAP.

Petition 396 to Amend 24VAC35-60-70 F(5)

Christopher Morris provided comments on the petition submitted by Cynthia Hites to amend 24VAC35-60-70 F(5). He reported it is similar to petition 375 from the same petitioner last year which asked that alcohol related interlock events not be considered violations. That petition was denied as it conflicted with the Code of Virginia. The only difference in this petition is the petitioner is requesting they not be considered as non-compliance. Mr. Morris noted a math error within the petition.

Mr. Morris recommended to deny the petition for the same reasons the prior petition was denied. Delegate Wren Williams asked the petitioner to address the math error. The petitioner reported she disagreed with the correction. Mr. Morris clarified the math and the secondary review process.

Delegate Williams asked if he could get the number of secondary reviews that were determined not to be a violation. Commission staff reported they would work on getting those numbers. Delegate James A. Leftwich Jr. moved and Mr. John Saunders seconded the motion to deny Petition 396 to Amend 24VAC35-60-70 F(5). Ten members were in favor, Delegate Williams abstained.

2024 Meeting Dates

March 22

June 7

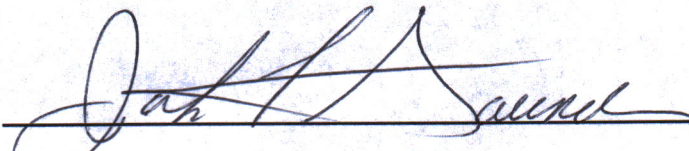
September 13

December 6

Senator Scott Surovell requested an update on the number of interlocks installed and the trends involved. There were discussions regarding the rise and fall of interlock number in relation to COVID and enforcement. Senator Surovell asked if individuals with high BACs are selecting the RAMD option, Ms. Coleman responded in the affirmative. Delegate Wren Williams requested clarification on crash facts referenced in the holiday statement. Senator Surovell shared that one of the bills passed this year requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to create an annual DUI report which will hopefully provide more robust information in reference to the data on DUIs. Senator Surovell stated DUI-D figures are probably underreported.

Adjournment

Delegate James A. Leftwich, Jr. moved, and Senator Scott A. Surovell seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor; none opposed. There being no further business, Senator Richard H. Stuart, Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.



Mr. John L. Saunders, Vice Chairman