

**COMMISSION ON VASAP
QUARTERLY MEETING**

March 27, 2026

Minutes

Attendance:

Commission Members:

Delegate Patrick A. Hope, Chairman
Senator Scott A. Surovell, Vice Chairman
Delegate Rae C. Cousins
Delegate Atoosa R. Reaser
The Honorable Gino W. Williams
The Honorable George D. Varoutsos
The Honorable Mary Jane Hall
Ms. Jennifer Wicker
Ms. Emily Witt
Ms. Krystal Hulette
Ms. Loren Ashley Cole

Absent:

Senator Richard H. Stuart
Delegate James A. Leftwich, Jr.
Sheriff Michael Moore
Ms. Margaret Steele

Commission Staff

Ms. Angela Coleman, Executive Director
Ms. Issar Ali
Ms. EdQuina Bradley
Ms. Shelby Edwards
Ms. Rosario Luviano
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 March 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Delegate Patrick A. Hope presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Angela Coleman, Executive Director, called roll of the Commission Members.

Acknowledgment & Moment of Silence in Memory of Branden Green

Ms. Coleman acknowledged the tragic death of Branden Green, Director of Tri-River ASAP, which is currently the subject of ongoing legal proceedings following an alleged incident involving an ASAP client on December 11, 2025.

Mr. Green was a graduate of Cornell University and honorably served his country as a member of the United States Army. Following his military service, he worked with disabled veterans, served as a scuba instructor and program manager for Adaptive Reconditioning, and later as Performance Center Manager for the Ready and Resilient Program.

Ms. Coleman noted that Mr. Green was a respected leader, colleague, and public servant who dedicated his life and career to helping others and strengthening the safety and well-being of the communities he served. His loss is deeply felt not only by Tri-River ASAP staff, but across all programs and among the many stakeholders impacted by his commitment and compassion.

All in attendance stood for a moment of silence in his honor.

Welcome to New Member

Delegate Hope introduced a new Commission member, Ms. Emily Witt, Deputy Director Driver Compliance Virginia DMV. Ms. Witt shared that she has been employed by DMV for 15 years and is looking forward to serving on the Commission.

Approval of the Minutes

Delegate Rae C. Cousins moved, and Delegate Atoosa R. Reaser, seconded the motion that the minutes from the December 4, 2025, Commission meeting be approved. All were in favor; none opposed.

Election of Chair, Commission on VASAP

The Honorable Gino W. Williams nominated Delegate Patrick A. Hope for Chairman. Delegate Atoosa R. Reaser seconded the nomination. All were in favor; none opposed.

Delegate Hope nominated Senator Scott A. Surovell for the position of Vice Chairman. Ms. Ashley Cole seconded the nomination. All were in favor; none opposed.

Legislative Review

Delegate Cousins provided an overview of HB862 which restructures the existing governance structure and responsibilities of the Commission on VASAP and expands its oversight authority over local alcohol safety action programs. Delegate Cousins stated that a lot of work was put into this legislation and recognized Troy Hatcher, DLS for his excellent work. Delegate Cousins noted that the work is ongoing. She stated that a workgroup, comprised of Commission staff and representatives of local ASAPs; staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations; representatives of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML); and any other relevant stakeholders will be convened to address concerns raised by localities regarding funding requirements.

Mr. Morris thanked Delegate Rae Cousins and Senator Richard Stuart for carrying HB862 and SB391 respectively. Mr. Morris expressed appreciation to Commission members for their continued hard work.

Delegate Hope commented that the collaborative workgroups and discussions leading up to the legislation serve as a strong model for future efforts, helping to position VASAP with greater governance and structure moving forward.

Ms. Coleman thanked Delegate Hope and Delegate Cousins for meeting with Commission staff regarding the need for legislation and also acknowledged VACO and VML for their collaboration.

Delegate Hope spoke on HB561, which permits courts to issue restricted licenses with the immediate installation of ignition interlock systems for certain offenders, including those charged with driving while intoxicated, refusal of tests, or repeat offenses. The bill, endorsed by the Commission, has received support from several advocacy groups. Delegate Hope noted that approximately 75 percent of individuals with suspended licenses continue to drive and emphasized that the bill addresses this public safety concern. He thanked the Commission and its staff for their efforts in advancing the legislation with minimal opposition.

Senator Surovell added that the bill represents an important step in improving highway safety through the use of technology and reflects a practical approach to addressing ongoing roadway safety challenges.

Update on Tri-River ASAP

Ms. Hope Brooks, Secretary of the Tri-River ASAP Policy Board and Deputy Director of Middle Peninsula Local Probation & Pretrial Services, provided an update on Tri-River ASAP operations. She reported that the Policy Board has been working closely with Ms. Coleman and commission staff to support the agency's continued progress.

Ms. Brooks shared that, following the passing of Branden Green, staff were given time off to process the incident. Since that time, a new employee has been hired and has successfully passed their certification exam. In response to the tragedy, several localities collaborated to provide safe and supportive workspace for staff. The Essex County Circuit Court offered office space for the Warsaw-based staff member. Remaining staff are currently operating temporarily out of the Middlesex Courthouse, following a brief period at the Newport News DMV, while efforts continue to secure permanent space in Gloucester County.

Ms. Brooks noted that the Policy Board will meet monthly during this period of transition and instability.

She further reported that a new program director has been hired and is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2026. Ms. Brooks expressed appreciation to Ms. Laura Offield, former Director of Tri-River ASAP, for her assistance with payroll and billing operations at the request of the Commission.

Additionally, the Policy Board has secured classroom space in Tappahannock and Gloucester. Classes in Gloucester are expected to begin in May; however, an instructor is still needed for the Tappahannock location.

Ms. Brooks concluded by recognizing Branden Green's dedication to his work and his staff, noting his commitment to improving office efficiency and his passion for helping others.

Ms. Coleman expressed appreciation to Ms. Brooks for her collaboration with the Commission during extraordinary circumstances. She also commended Commission staff for their proactive efforts, particularly stepping in just two weeks before the holiday season, to ensure continuity of services for Tri-River ASAP clients.

Ms. Coleman reported that Tri-River ASAP phone lines were forwarded to the Commission's office, where staff assumed responsibility for enrollments, intakes, classes, financial operations, and IT support. Commission staff also conducted on-site visits to assist with the transition to a new location. She noted that all involved volunteered their time and remained committed to maintaining uninterrupted services.

Additionally, Ms. Coleman extended her gratitude to DMV Commissioner, Mr. Gerald Lackey, for his prompt outreach and support. He offered space within local DMV offices to provide Tri-River ASAP staff with a safe and secure working environment.

ASAP Customer Service

Ms. Jennifer McVeigh, Director of Old Dominion ASAP presented the topic of ASAP Customer Service. Her presentation consisted of 7 best practices in customer service and how those practices apply to the program. Those practices are:

- Personalized Interactions
- Empower One Another
- Consistent Communication
- Proactive Problem Solving
- Quality Assurance
- Streamlined Processes
- Continuous Improvement

There was discussion on how some of the practices related to de-escalation are implemented in the local programs. Ms. Coleman shared that this year's annual VASAP conference will touch on those topics. Ms. Coleman also shared that following the tragic event at Tri-River ASAP, budget amendments were submitted by some ASAPs and subsequently approved to increase local program security. New policies were implemented by the commission. Ms. Coleman also reported that local program directors were encouraged to reach out to their local law enforcement to schedule a building walk-through to determine if there were any safety concerns.

Ms. Wicker spoke on Ms. McVeigh's statement that Old Dominion ASAP is equipped with an AED, Narcan, PPD and First Aid kits and inquired as to what can be done to ensure that all ASAPs have those items. Ms. McVeigh stated that Old Dominion has a fiscal agent and the County provides some of those items along with training.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Coleman presented the Executive Director's report.

Interlock Summary Report

Ms. Coleman shared the interlock summary report, reporting that RAMD devices increased by 48 units.

ECM Updates

Ms. Shelby Edwards, Commission on VASAP Office Services Assistant, presented updates on ECM. These updates include the directory lookup tool currently live on the Commission on VASAP's website, which allows users to identify the appropriate ASAP by jurisdiction and access contact information. She also discussed the ECM E-Learning Tool for new hires, designed to standardize onboarding with structured modules, knowledge checks, and practical exercises. Additionally, she introduced the Employee Certification Exam Prep Tool, which will provide self-guided exam preparation using official materials to improve consistency and reduce staff-led prep sessions. Finally, she reviewed the Program Certification Tool, which will automate a review of a larger set of cases for certification, enable interim check-ins, and provide program directors with enhanced oversight. These updates collectively aim to improve consistency, efficiency, and overall program management.

2026 Shamrock the Block

Ms. Coleman reported that on March 14, 2026, Commission staff attended the Shamrock the Block Festival in Scott's Addition for the third consecutive year to promote the "Drive Sober" message. The event drew thousands of attendees, many of whom expressed appreciation for VASAP's presence and enthusiasm for receiving this year's promotional giveaways. VASAP also collaborated with event vendors by providing beer trucks with "Drive Sober" cup sleeves. The "Drive Sober" cup sleeves and necklaces were visible throughout the crowd.

Ms. Coleman expressed gratitude to Commission staff, as well as Ms. Ashley Cole and her team from John Tyler ASAP, and Ms. Alicia Kline and her team from Rappahannock Area ASAP, for their participation. She noted that their involvement helped expand the Commission's outreach and enhance public education efforts.

Tri-River ASAP Debrief

Ms. Coleman expressed gratitude to Ms. Margarette Steele for her support following the tragic event at Tri-River ASAP. She reported that Ms. Steele coordinated a mental health debrief session for all ASAP programs, ensuring that ASAP staff had the opportunity to participate in the debrief session.

Next Meeting

Ms. Coleman noted that the June meeting is expected to be lengthy, as it will include the review and approval of program budgets. She encouraged all members to attend.

The Honorable George D. Varoutsos announced that his term is coming to an end and that he intends to retire, noting that this will likely be his final meeting. He reflected on his more than 25 years of service, describing it as a privilege.

Delegate Hope expressed appreciation for his longstanding dedication and contributions to the Commission on VASAP. In recognition of his service, many in attendance stood and offered a round of applause.

2026 Meeting Dates

June 5th

September 18th

December 3rd

Adjournment

There being no further business, Delegate Patrick A. Hope, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.