

# **The Commission on VASAP**

**2020 Annual Executive Summary**

January 2021



**Your Doorway to Safe & Sober Driving**

## Introduction

The Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program traces its roots to Fairfax County. In 1972, it became the site of one of 35 national “Alcohol Safety Action Projects” funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). On March 24, 1975, legislation passed by the General Assembly expanded this program statewide establishing driver education and rehabilitation programs in an effort to reduce the number of highway tragedies. In 1986, the General Assembly formed the Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (Commission on VASAP). This provided for the standardization of ASAP operations, thereby increasing the quality and equity of services to offenders statewide.

There are currently 24 Alcohol Safety Action Programs throughout Virginia. Every jurisdiction in the Commonwealth is covered by one of the local programs. The ASAP programs share in the responsibility with other highway safety partners to help lower the number of impaired drivers on our roadways.

Section 18.2-271.2 of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Commission on VASAP to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission. This report provides an overview of the Commission on VASAP activities during 2020.

The Commission on VASAP continues to provide quality services to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia *without using any general state revenues*. The Commission looks forward to ongoing success in 2021 as it works cooperatively with the General Assembly and other highway safety stakeholders to reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities.

## Mission

To improve highway safety by decreasing the incidence of driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, thereby leading to the reduction of alcohol and drug-related fatalities and crashes.

## Programs

VASAP has developed many educational programs designed to improve highway safety, providing a credible Alcohol Safety Action Program that responds to the needs of each locality in Virginia. Included among these are:

- ASAP Education Groups
- Community Service Programs
- Driver Improvement Programs
- DUI Court
- First Offender Drug Programs
- Intervention Interviews
- Reckless/Aggressive Driver Programs
- Ignition Interlock
- Young Offender Programs
- Habitual Offender Restoration Reviews

## Overview of the Commission

§18.2-271.2. Commission on VASAP; purpose; membership; terms; meetings; staffing; compensation and expenses; chairman's executive summary.

A. There is hereby established in the legislative branch of state government the Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP). The Commission shall administer and supervise the state system of local alcohol and safety action programs, develop and maintain operation and performance standards for local alcohol and safety action programs, and allocate funding to such programs. The Commission shall have a total membership of 15 members that shall consist of six legislative members and nine nonlegislative citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: four current or former members of the House Committee for Courts of Justice, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; three sitting or retired judges, one each from the circuit, general district and juvenile and domestic relations district courts, who regularly hear or heard cases involving driving under the influence and are familiar with their local alcohol safety action programs, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on District Courts; one director of a local alcohol safety action program to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates upon consideration of the recommendations of the legislative members of the Commission; one director of a local alcohol safety action program to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules upon consideration of the recommendations of the legislative members of the Commission; one representative from the law-enforcement profession, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one nonlegislative citizen at large, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one representative from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles whose duties are substantially related to matters to be addressed by the Commission to be appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, and one representative from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services whose duties also substantially involve such matters, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Legislative members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. In accordance with the staggered terms previously established, nonlegislative citizen members shall serve two-year terms. All members may be reappointed. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be made for the unexpired terms. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be made in the same manner as the original appointment.

B. The Commission shall meet at least four times each year at such places as it may from time to time designate. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. The Commission shall be empowered to establish and ensure the maintenance of minimum standards and criteria for program operations and performance, accounting, auditing, public information and administrative procedures for the various local alcohol safety action programs and shall be responsible for overseeing the administration of the statewide VASAP system. Such programs shall be certified by the Commission in accordance with procedures set forth in the Commission on VASAP Certification Manual. The Commission shall also oversee program plans, operations

and performance and a system for allocating funds to cover deficits that may occur in the budgets of local programs.

C. The Commission shall appoint and employ and, at its pleasure, remove an executive director and such other persons as it may deem necessary, and determine their duties and fix their salaries or compensation.

D. The Commission shall appoint a Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Commission regarding its duties and administrative functions. The membership of such Board shall be appointed at the discretion of the Commission and include personnel from (i) local safety action programs, (ii) the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, community service boards or behavioral health authorities and (iii) other community mental health services organizations. An assistant attorney general who provides counsel in matters relating to driving under the influence shall also be appointed to the Board.

E. Legislative members of the Commission shall receive compensation as provided in § 30-19.12. Funding for the costs of compensation of legislative members shall be provided by the Commission. All members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825 to be paid out of that portion of moneys paid in VASAP defendant entry fees which is forwarded to the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program.

F. The Chairman of the Commission on VASAP shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

## **Commission Members**

### **Legislative**

Senator Richard H. Stuart, Chairman  
Delegate Jennifer D. Carroll Foy  
Delegate Mark H. Levine

Senator Scott A. Surovell  
Delegate James A. (Jay) Leftwich, Jr  
Delegate Don L. Scott Jr.

### **Judicial**

Honorable Mary Jane Hall  
Honorable George D. Varoutsos

Honorable Gino W. Williams

### **Law Enforcement**

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid

### **Department of Motor Vehicles**

Mr. John L. Saunders, Vice Chairman

### **Non-Legislative Citizen at Large**

Ms. Pat Eggleston

### **Behavioral Health and Developmental Services**

Vacant

### **Local Program Directors**

Mr. Anthony Carmichael

Ms. Robyn Allen

## **Commission Staff**

Angela D. Coleman – Executive Director

EdQuina Bradley – Administrative Procedures Technician

Diane Bussée – Office Services Assistant

Rosario Carrasquillo – Special Programs Design Technician

Shelia Crump – Payroll Manager

Richard Foy – Field Services Specialist

Christopher Morris – Special Programs Coordinator

Charlene Motley – Field Services Supervisor

Nicole Patrick–Eason – IT Specialist

Richard Phillips - Ignition Interlock Technical Support Specialist

## Commission Meeting Dates

**March 27, 2020** (Cancelled due to COVID 19 and rescheduled to October 30<sup>th</sup>)

**June 5, 2020**

**September 11, 2020**

**October 30, 2020**

**December 11, 2020**

*During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges for society as a whole. The Commission on VASAP, as other state agencies, had to be flexible to adapt, improvise and overcome obstacles in order to continue to provide quality services for the public. Teleworking and virtual meetings were often required to maintain the safety of the staff and its constituents. Unfortunately, a number of planned public information activities had to be cancelled due to the declared emergency in the Commonwealth. Through it all, however, essential operations were maintained and much was accomplished as summarized in this annual report.*

## Component Area Activities

In keeping with VASAP's mission to improve highway safety, the VASAP system operates within five component target areas.

### **Case Management/Offender Intervention**

Persons referred to ASAP are monitored by case managers who screen and classify offenders to determine the most appropriate education and/or treatment services needed.

In 2020, the Commission on VASAP:

- assisted the local programs in a continuing difficult economic climate by assuming payment for education workbooks for all 24 local programs
- provided on-going technical support to the local ASAPs regarding case management procedures
- continued to work with the Department of Motor Vehicles on matters related to restricted license orders, ignition interlock, ASAP compliance and policy updates
- provided administrative oversight for vendors regarding the operation of the ignition interlock program in the Commonwealth
- monitored and conducted multiple inspections of 95 ignition interlock service centers
- facilitated the opening of new ignition interlock facilities in Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, Wytheville, Roanoke, Harrisonburg and Richmond
- worked cooperatively with the VASAP Directors' Association
- maintained the VASAP–DMV interface for electronic submission of ASAP program data

- attended scheduled meetings of the Substance Abuse Services Council
- attended the Traffic Injury Research Foundation DWI Workgroup November 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>
- continued management of the 24-hour online payment processing system for offenders
- continued to develop and improve the new VASAP Case Management Information System (Enginuity)
- installed a Polycom System in the VASAP Office. The polycom system includes a monitor and remote that is used to connect to magistrates throughout the state. Due to the increasing number of warrants being obtained for interlock circumvention, driving to each magistrate location throughout the commonwealth became more challenging. The polycom system allows commission staff the ability to remote directly with magistrates to obtain warrants, thereby making the process more efficient while reducing operational expenses
- enhanced INSPIRE from the mobile application grant which enables states to conduct interlock facility inspections from their phone and communicate with interlock service providers electronically
- continued to provide secondary support to the local programs with regard to reviews of interlock events deemed interlock violations by the ASAPs. The process strengthens the integrity of the Virginia ignition interlock program
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to John Tyler ASAP on January 31, 2020
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to New River Valley ASAP on February 14, 2020
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to Alexandria ASAP on March 5, 2020
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to Old Dominion ASAP on March 6, 2020
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to James River ASAP on March 13, 2020
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to Bull Run ASAP, Fairfax ASAP, Piedmont ASAP, and Southeastern ASAP on July 31, 2020
- provided case management system-Enginuity training to Arlington ASAP, Central Virginia ASAP, Southside ASAP, Tri-River ASAP and Central Virginia ASAP on October 5, 2020
- provided guidance on the case management system-Enginuity throughout 2020
- created and released virtual Enginuity training modules to the local 24 ASAPs
- worked with the Change Companies to redesign the Intensive Education Curriculum to reflect industry- recognized best practices with the aim of lowering recidivism rates, enhancing curriculum facilitation and improving offender compliance rates

### **Adjudication**

VASAP, prosecutors, and the courts work together to ensure the efficient processing of those convicted of driving under the influence and referred to VASAP for probation.

In 2020, the Commission on VASAP:

- provided brochures on teenage drinking and driving to Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Charles City Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Clarke County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Giles County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Page County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Radford City Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Richmond City Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the 28th Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for use in driver licensing ceremonies and to the Substance Abuse Free Environment, Inc. (SAFE)
- served as a member on the Drug Court Operations Committee
- attended Drug Court Treatment Advisory meetings
- investigated potential ignition interlock circumvention cases, obtained warrants and testified in court hearings in 22 different jurisdictions
- presented at the new judges training on June 18<sup>th</sup>
- partnered with Peggy Downey of the Richmond Department of Justice Services to provide educational materials to students to use during their stay at home due to COVID. These items consisted of Choose To Be Free workbooks, educational posters, and teenage drinking and driving brochures

### **Enforcement**

VASAP enhances law enforcement efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug-related crashes by providing training to detect and apprehend those driving under the influence.

In 2020, the Commission on VASAP:

- monitored committee meetings of the General Assembly to track the introduction and passage of DUI enforcement legislation
- participated in, and provided data for, the evaluation of DUI Courts
- participated in the DMV Highway Safety Impaired Driving Committee meetings, January 8<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Public Information/Education**

VASAP helps reduce the number of impaired driving injuries and fatalities by increasing public awareness through education, and by encouraging responsible decision making. Each program conducts local public information efforts with training and support materials from the Commission on VASAP.

In 2020, the Commission on VASAP:



- developed and distributed a Commission on VASAP Holiday Statement on the dangers of drinking and driving for release to local programs during the month of December
- attended the FOIA Virtual Conference on September 10, 2020
- responded to, and resolved, inquiries and concerns of legislators, citizens, courts, local attorneys, neighboring states, and other state agencies
- provided weekly legislative updates to local ASAPs and other stakeholders
- enhanced and updated various VASAP brochures to be used in public awareness / education efforts
- hosted informational booths at VCU men's basketball games on January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 29<sup>th</sup>. Provided an ignition interlock equipped vehicle for display
- participated in the 2020 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign
- hosted an information booth at the Virginia Wine Expo in Richmond, attended by over 7,500 persons, March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- responded to 35 FOIA inquiries from citizens and media outlets in the Commonwealth
- responded to three petitions for regulatory action
- created an internal training video for the local 24 ASAPs
- created public information videos geared towards addressing the growing issue with ignition interlock circumvention. These videos were placed by DMV in media outlets in Tidewater, Richmond and Northern Virginia and on the commission website

### **Evaluation/Certification**

The Commission on VASAP is responsible for periodically evaluating and recertifying each ASAP to ensure that services in the communities are effective, consistent, and appropriate.

In 2020, the Commission on VASAP:

- provided oversight for the vendor conducting financial audits of the local ASAPs
- audited and reviewed the budgets of the 24 local ASAPs
- successfully passed the financial audit of the commission office without any findings of deficiency
- reviewed local program budget amendments
- administered approved testing and monitored certification compliance of newly hired ignition interlock technicians
- created and released a certification training video for the local ASAPs which will help them to prepare for the upcoming certification audits in 2021
- worked with VITA for VASAP onboarding to enhance the security of critical electronic systems
- began the regulatory process to revise Virginia's ignition interlock regulations
- began the regulatory process to write new remote alcohol monitoring device regulations
- worked with the VCU Performance Management Group gathering needed information for the VASAP Strategic Plan and Business Analysis



If you should have any questions regarding the content of the 2020 Annual Executive Summary or any of the programs offered by the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, please contact:

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