ALL ABOUT VBPD

OUR UNIQUE ROLE

Under mandate of federal and state law, VBPD works to promote and guide public policy changes and create opportunities for new approaches in our service delivery systems. VBPD is proud to have enriched the lives of Virginians with developmental and other disabilities by investing in over 200 best practices, model demonstration and research grant projects that have created change in the areas of education, employment, housing, early intervention, transportation, recreation, and community integration. We work with many public and private groups across the state and nationally to identify best practices, new approaches, and collaborative ventures that facilitate our mission and increase the independence, productivity, and integration of people with disabilities in our Commonwealth.

Federal law outlines a unique role for state Councils that includes:

- Serving as an independent advisor to the Governor and legislature on public policy issues that impact people with developmental disabilities (DD).
- Engaging with people with disabilities and their allies to understand pressing needs and identify emerging issues impacting the state's DD community.
- Encouraging citizen engagement and participation so that the voices of people with developmental disabilities are part of policy decisions.
- Funding innovative and pilot projects—based on data driven strategic planning—that test best practices and inform state and federal policies and practices leading to greater independence and self-sufficiency for people with DD.
- Charging councils with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with DD.

MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. Our vision is for Virginians with developmental and other disabilities to direct their own lives and choose how they live, learn, work, and play.
ALL ABOUT VBPD

The Board meets at least once a quarter, in Richmond, VA.

The Governor appoints 31 of the 39 Board members.

The remaining eight members are state agency designees.

The Board advises:
- THE GOVERNOR
- FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATORS
- THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board serves as the developmental disabilities council, as established under the federal "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act" and the state "Virginians with Disabilities Act".

OUR PURPOSE

1. The Board's purpose is to engage in:
   - ADVOCACY
   - CAPACITY BUILDING
   - SYSTEMS CHANGE

2. To continue enabling individuals with DD to:
   - BE INDEPENDENT
   - BE PRODUCTIVE
   - INTEGRATE INTO COMMUNITY LIFE

3. This is accomplished by many efforts including:
   - OUTREACH & TRAINING
   - SUPPORTING & EDUCATING COMMUNITIES
   - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
   - ELIMINATING BARRIERS
   - ENCOURAGING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
   - INFORMING OUR POLICYMAKERS OF ISSUES

4. These efforts contribute to systems change and the development of:
   - CONSUMER/FAMILY DIRECTED & CENTERED SERVICES
   - COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SERVICES
   - INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORTS & OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE