**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Policy, Research and Evaluation (PRE) Meeting Minutes**

***Sept. 13, 2017***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**:

Summer Sage (Chair)

Ann Bevan

Donna Gilles

Melissa Gibson

Felicia Hamilton

John Kelly

Angela West

Angela Sadsad

Deanna Parker

Phillip Caldwell

Chris Nace

Alexis Nichols

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Curtis Andrews

John Eisenberg

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT**:

John Cimino

**CALL TO ORDER/CONSENT AGENDA:** Summer Sage (Committee Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and introduced the consent agenda items. Summer Sage reviewed key discussion items from the Executive Committee Agenda. Deanna Parker made a **MOTION** to approve the consent agenda items without discussion, and Felicia Hamilton **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** was **APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

**POLICY UPDATE:** John Cimino provided an update on recent policy developments and policy work by Board staff, with an emphasis activities related to the 2017 Assessments of Education and Employment.

**PRESENTATION:** Helen Hardiman, the Vice President of Law and Policy at Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) presented to the Committee on the fair housing work that HOME does related to disability protections. The presentation included a summary of existing Fair Housing Laws in Virginia, the specific work that HOME does to advance the rights of people with disabilities afforded by Fair Housing Laws in Virginia, and some of the major policy considerations related to disability fair housing. These policy areas included protection of existing rights in state law, provision of resources to enforce state housing laws, education of individuals and the housing community about fair housing law, combating fraud and abuse of assistance animal protections in fair housing law without adversely affecting existing rights, increasing willingness of landlords to accept Housing Choice Vouchers, and incentives and funding for housing that is both accessible and affordable.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** John Cimino provided a brief summary of progress and plans for the 2018 Assessments of Housing and Transportation services.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Summer Sage adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.