**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Policy, Research and Evaluation Meeting Minutes**

***September 20, 2016***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**:

Summer Sage (Chair)

Melissa Gibson

Angela Sadsad

Felicia Hamilton

Ramona Schaffer (for Terri Smith)

John Kelly

MaryAnn Moore (for John Eisenberg)

Deanna Parker

Donna Gilles

Alexis Nichols

Phil Caldwell

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jessica Phillips

Curtis Andrews

Angela West

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT**:

John Cimino

**CALL TO ORDER/REVIEW OF AGENDA:** Ms. Summer Sage, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. John Cimino announced that Ms. Angela West had resigned from her position as Chair of the PRE Committee due to competing obligations, and that Ms. Sage has been appointed by the Board Chair, Mr. Charles Meacham as the new chair of the PRE Committee

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2016 MEETING MINUTES:** Ms. Sage drew the Committee’s attention to the draft minutes from the June 15, 2016 Committee meeting. There were no objections to the draft minutes and no discussion. Ms. Angela Sadsad made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes, Mr. Stephen Joseph seconded the **MOTION**, and the Committee unanimously approved the June minutes without amendment.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE:** Ms. Sage summarized the Executive Committee’s discussions from earlier in the morning, highlighting training programs, the new grant RFP and the Board’s revised budget.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:** Ms. Sage announced that the Committee would be electing a Vice-Chair whose role will be to take over the role of chair in the chair’s absence. Mr. John Kelly was nominated for the role and elected after a unanimous **VOTE**.

**ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE AND PLANNING:** Mr. Cimino discussed a proposed structure for the upcoming 2017 Assessment of employment and education services in the state of Virginia. Legislative requirements for assessment were discussed, as well as the expected timeline for completing assessment drafts. The Board’s Benchmarks for Evaluating Public Policy in Virginia were reviewed to provide context for the Board’s policy recommendations. The Committee discussed the Committee’s role in participating in the creation and approval of the assessment and the assessment recommendations. Members of the Committee expressed an interest in offering insights about the importance of various issues and barriers in the assessment topic areas. The Committee recommended the distribution of a survey to board members to obtain input from the board on these matters. Board Staff agreed to this suggestion. This will be distributed prior to the December meeting with responses due by November 1. While Committee members are encouraged to solicit input from other stakeholders to help them respond to this survey, the survey is not intended for distribution to individuals outside of the Committee.

**UPDATE/DISCUSSION OF BOARD POLICY ACTIVITIES AND EMERGING POLICY ISSUES:** Mr. Cimino reviewed the formal public comments made by the Board over the past quarter, as well as some of the liaison and coalition work of the Board. There was a brief discussion of current and emerging policy issues that the Board will be focusing on. Transition services for school age students were discussed and whether Board staff should invest time in developing policy materials in this area. Committee members discussed their personal experiences regarding transition services, and preparation of students with disabilities for college. Committee members expressed views that this is an important issue to address.

**UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF EMERGING POLICY ISSUES:** Mr. Cimino reviewed significant recent policy-related activities, and emerging policy issues, including WIOA implementation, ESSA planning, restraint and seclusion regulatory process, implementation of the newly revised intellectual and developmental disabilities Medicaid Waivers, and the upcoming 2017 legislative session.

**FEEDBACK ON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETING TOPICS:**  Committee members noted that upcoming meetings will need to focus on the development of the disability assessment and the progress being made towards its completion.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Sage adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.