**Virginia Board for with Disabilities**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

***December 14, 2016***

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities held its regular quarterly meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2016, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 4700 South Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Charles Meacham, Randy Burak, Cindy Rudy, Angela Sadsad, Matthew Shapiro, Deanna Parker, Ethel Parris Gainer, Stephen Joseph, Richard Kriner, Ronald Lanier (VDDHH), Donna J. Lockwood, Mary McAdam, Alexis Nichols, Melissa Gibson (Designee for Colleen Miller, disability Law Center of Virginia), Jane Ward Solomon (Designee for Richard Mitchell, DBVI), Atima Omara, Summer Sage, Ramona Schaffer (Designee for Terry Smith, DMAS), Kathleen Vaughan, Philip Caldwell, Caroline Raker, John Eisenberg (DOE), Donna Gilles, John Kelly, Angela West, Ed Turner, Curtis Andrews, Theresa Cassleman, Carina Elgin

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Travis Webb, Korinda Rusinyak, Marisa Laios, Rachel Loughlin, Jamie Snead, Michael Carrasco, Rose Williams, Felicia Hamilton, Vicki Beatty

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Board Chair, Mr. Charles Meacham called the meeting to order at 11:45 am. The Chair welcomed Ms. Molly Dellinger-ray and Mr. Jack Brandt from VCU’s Partnership for People with Disabilities as the luncheon presenters. He also gave thanks to the individuals who presented during the Investment and State Plan Oversight Committee: Ms. Tracy Lee, Family Engagement Specialist – Adult Curriculum on Critical Decision Making Points for Students with Disabilities - Virginia Department of Education and Ms. Betsy Archer, Project Coordinator – Virginia NICU Early Intervention Collaborative - Virginia Hospital Research and Education Foundation. Mr. Meacham welcomed Board members, staff, and agency designees: Ms. Jane Ward-Solomon, attending as the designee for Mr. Richard Mitchell (DVBI) and Ms. Ramona Schaffer as the designee for Ms. Terri Smith (DMAS). He also welcomed and introduced new Board staff member, Ms. Amberly Millis, Communications Assistant.

The Chair made several general announcements: Board Member Ms. Rose Williams has written an autobiographical book titled “Tiny Steps” which can be purchased online at Amazon.com. The 2017-2018 Partners in Policymaking Program will be held from September 2017 – April 2018 at the Holiday Inn Bells Road, Richmond, Virginia. PIP Applications will be available on the Board website beginning Monday, December 19, 2016 thru March 31, 2016. The Chair asked Board members to encourage adults with disabilities and parents who have children with disabilities to apply by the March 31 deadline. Board Conflict of Interest forms are to be submitted no later than January 15, 2017. All board members are required to complete these forms annually and continued service to the board is predicated on submission by January 15, 2017. Submissions are done electronically now. After the first of the year an electronic notice will be sent out with the link to the website and form for submission. If this message is not received, contact Nan Pemberton. Board Meeting Evaluation forms will also be sent out electronically after the meeting. Lastly the date of the next Board Meeting is March 15th, 2017.

**LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Dellinger-Wray, Project Director and Mr. Brandt, Disability Policy Specialist for, VCU-PPD (Partnership for People with Disabilities) presented on the LEAP Grant that was funded by the Board. The grant ended September 30, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2016 BOARD MINUTES**:

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the September 2016 Board Meeting minutes. Ms. Heidi Lawyer, Executive Director, noted that Ms. Cindy Rudy had provided technical changes to the minutes to Jason Withers. The Chair called for **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes with the technical corrections. Ms. Atima Omara made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the September 2016 Board Meeting minutes, and Ms. Rudy seconded the **MOTION.** The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY:**

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the revised Public Comment Policy. Mr. John Kelly asked for clarity on group presentations and suggested the language be changed to reflect that when there is a group presenting, each presenter had three minutes individually and a total of ten for the group, unless otherwise extended by the Chair. Ms. Summer Sage requested that all written letters of public comment receive a written correspondence. Ms. Lawyer informed the Board that correspondence could be sent but it would only be an acknowledgment of receipt, not a response, unless I was an instance of reported abuse or neglect. The Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the new policy along with the suggested changes. Mr. Kelly made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the new public comment section of the board meeting. Mr. Matthew Shapiro seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT & STATE PLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Ms. Cindy Rudy reported that:

**RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING: LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING:**

Ms. Lawyer explained a new Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) initiative to develop and implement a statewide Train the Trainer Model for First Responder Disability Awareness Training. DCJS requires additional funding, outside of its existing programs, to ensure development and implementation of the model for statewide use. Ms. Lawyer recommended consideration of a contribution of $50,000. The Committee agreed to recommend funding to the Board. The ISP Committee made **MOTION** that the Board approve the funding, which the Board passed unanimously.

**GRANTS AND CONTRACTS EXPENDITURES/MONITORING:**

Mr. Jason Withers reviewed the ABLE (Advocates Building Livable Environments) continuation grant and the Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention (LEAP) grant expenditures with the Committee members. These projects were referenced in Attachment ISP 3-2.

**LEADERSHIP FOR EMPOWERMENT AND ABUSE PREVENTION (LEAP) GRANT SUMMARY REPORT:**

Mr. Withers reviewed highlights from the Virginia Commonwealth University Partnership for People with Disabilities’ LEAP Grant. The LEAP project taught people with developmental and other disabilities, through a train the trainer model involving other people with disabilities, about healthy relationships and how to better protect themselves from sexual assault, abuse, neglect and exploitation. This project was referenced in Attachment ISP 4-1.

**UPDATE ON LETTERS OF INTEREST (LOIs) FOR COMPETITIVE RFP:**

Mr. Withers advised that the Grant Review Team (GRT) met on November 10, 2016 to discuss the 19 Letters of Interest received. Seven applicants were selected to submit full proposals which are due January 17 by 4:00pm. The GRT will convene in February to discuss the proposals and make funding recommendations. At the March 15, 2017 Board Meeting, the funding recommendations will be presented to the full Board for review and approval.

**2017 GRANTEE UPDATES:**

The ISP Committee members heard updates from two current grantees: Ms. Lee, the Family Engagement Specialist with the Virginia Department of Education, discussed the *Adult Curriculum on Critical Decision Making Points for Students with Disabilities* grant*.* Ms. Archer, the Project Coordinator with the Virginia Hospital Research and Education Foundation (VHREF), discussed the Virginia NICU Early Intervention Collaborative grant.

**DISCUSSION OF 2012-2017 STATE PLAN:**

Due to time constraints during the meeting, the Committee did not discuss the 2012-2016 State Plan.

**DISCUSSION OF THE 2017-2021 STATE PLAN:**

Mr. Withers discussed that the 2017-2021 State Plan was submitted the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) in July of 2016. Based on the feedback received from AIDD in connection with the submitted plan, it was noted that the requirement to establish or strengthen a statewide self-advocacy organization run by individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) was listed as an activity. To address this compliance issue, staff proposed eliminating Activity 2.1.1 (establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization led by individuals with DD) and creating a new objective to read: *Objective 2-4: By 2021 establish or strengthen by direct funding a self-advocacy organization led by individuals with DD.*

Ms. Kathleen Vaughan made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the addition of Objective 2.4, as proposed. The **MOTION** was seconded by Ms. Omara. The **MOTION** carried. Mr. Withers also discussed that, based on feedback received from AIDD in connection with the submitted State Plan; a change was needed to consolidate the activities in Objective 1-8. Council staff learned that Virginia would not be adopting ABLE Act regulations but was rather going to utilize the federal regulations. Therefore this activity needed to be changed to reflect the agency’s role in guidance and dissemination of information. The new activity under Objective 1-8 would now read: *Provide guidance to ensure VA 529 develops user-friendly, accessible information and support the dissemination of information.*

**WRAP UP AND POTENTIAL MEETING TOPICS:**

Committee members had the following recommendations for potential future meeting topics: host a speaker to discuss Employment First, review and discussion of state plan findings on employment and voting rights for individuals with disabilities.

**REPORT OF THE POLICY, RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Ms. Summer Sage reported that:

The Committee began at 9:15AM with a brief introduction to the Committee’s consent agenda items. A **MOTION** was made to **APPROVE** the consent agenda by Mr. Kelly; the motion was seconded and **APPROVED.**

Mr. John Eisenberg, VDOE, provided the Committee with an update on major policy issues that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is currently dealing with related to students with disabilities. These include the development of restraint and seclusion regulations, the development and implementation of Virginia’s State plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act, and recent stakeholder-developed input on increasing inclusion in Virginia.

Mr. John Cimino provided the Committee with an update on the status of the 2017 Assessment focused on Education and Employment. The Committee discussed the results of a survey of Board members, which yielded a less than 30 percent participation response rate. It was stressed that this is one of the primary ways that Board members can get involved in the Board’s work.

The Committee plans to hold an interim Committee meeting to discuss Assessment recommendations before the March Board Meeting. The timing of this meeting is not yet set.

**REPORT OF THE ADVOCACY OUTREACH AND TRAINING COMMITTEE:**

Committee Chair Mr. Randy Burak reported that:

The Committee began with a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the September Committee Meeting Minutes; the minutes were **APPROVED**.

Mr. Benjamin Jarvela, Communications Director, updated the Committee on the previous quarter’s communication activities and the following topics were discussed: (1) the Board’s rebranding and website relaunch is underway and are expected to be released March, 2017, (2) the Board’s member SharePoint page is largely complete and the test server has been launched; it is expected to be complete by March, 2017, and (3) a Communications Assistant had been hired.

Next, Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee, Training Programs Manager, informed the Committee that three out of the four training program alumni gatherings were successful. Currently, the Board is considering how to more effectively reach individuals in the Southwest region of Virginia because of the difficult geography. This could involve creating more chapters and/or exploring ways to use technology to facilitate more alumni connections. All PIP recruitment materials are being redesigned and will be available to the public December 20, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Ms. Lawyer discussed a meeting she had with the Commissioners of Virginia’s Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired Department (DBVI), Board member Mr. Eisenberg from the Virginia Department of Education (DOE), and the Director of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to gain their support to help the Board examine and determine the best way to implement advocacy and leadership training for youth. This was a follow-up to previous discussions with the Board on the need to look at possible collaborative training and funding, as well as expanded outreach. Approval was requested by Ms. Lawyer to continue exploring different options from outside agencies and organizations in order to remodel the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF).

The Committee agreed that Ms. Lawyer should form an interagency committee. Mr. Matthew Shapiro asked whether he could serve on the committee and Ms. Lawyer told him he could. Mr. Benjamin Jarvela and Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee then briefed the Committee on the training program survey results, which were generally positive. However, survey completion rates were significantly low. It was noted that the Board is actively considering new strategies to increase and encourage survey completion among Partners in Policymaking (PIP) and YLF Alumni

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**Ms. Kathleen Vaughan, agency representative, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS):**

* The final performance statistics for the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program at DARS indicate that a total of 29,399 individuals were served during the past year. In addition, 5,771 clients were removed from the waiting list in FFY16. 8,380 plans for employment were written in FFY16, representing an increase of 2,584 plans from FFY15. Plans for 4,060 individuals were successfully closed due to employment, a 7% increase from the previous year. All five VR program targets were met or exceeded in FFY16. These include: the number of employment plans written, the rehabilitation rate, the number of clients employed, average hourly earnings for clients finding employment and the competitive employment rate. However, due to the increased number of individuals being served by the VR program, individuals newly seeking services are being placed on the waiting list.
* VR staff is engaged in federal legislation—Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—working to foster collaboration with school systems to support students with disabilities at an earlier age in order to increase their vocational success.
* Ms. Rhonda Jeter has been named the Director of Independent, a position held for many years by Ms. Theresa Preda, longtime advocate and leader whose life we celebrated after her passing earlier this year. Rhonda brings valuable experience to the position, having worked in a Center for Independent Living (CIL) and traveled to many Virginia CILs in her most recent role as Administrator for Virginia’s Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).
* On August 1, 2016, Virginia was awarded a two-year Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME) grant by the Administration for Community Living. This funding will continue and expand successful work already begun in Virginia. Individuals with disabilities and older adults are disproportionately affected by chronic illness. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in a 30-day period, individuals with disabilities experience an average of nine days of restricted activity due to health challenges, more than four times the rate of their counterparts without a disability
* Developed by Stanford University, CDSMP is a six week, 2.5 hour workshop that offers tools and information to help people manage chronic conditions and participate more fully in life. In various regions, workshops are available with a focus upon chronic pain, diabetes and cancer, and some workshops are offered in Spanish. Participants help each other through brainstorming and problem-solving as they develop weekly achievable action plans. Classes are highly interactive and often are led by peers. Mutual support and success build the confidence of participants in their ability to manage their health and maintain active and fulfilling lives.
* There is strong evidence across many studies that CDSMP participants experience several beneficial health outcomes, including greater energy, increased participation in physical activity, improved health, reduced pain symptoms and improved psychological well-being. Long-term, CDSMP has been shown to decrease the number of emergency room visits of participants, and the number of hospital admissions and length of stay. Individuals who participate also report greater confidence that they can take action to affect their own health.
* A dedicated CDSME technology Module in the No Wrong Door System is being implemented statewide to assist with scheduling, tracking and reporting on workshop sessions and participation. In partnership with the CDSME grant, all four Virginia Alzheimer’s Association Chapters have joined No Wrong Door Statewide and will use CRIA (Communication, Referral, Information and Assistance) to make automated referrals to CDSME sessions for individuals diagnosed with early stage dementia and their caregivers.
* Since the last Board meeting, ten agencies have joined Virginia’s No Wrong Door network with CRIA. No Wrong Door is a virtual system and statewide network of shared resources, designed to provide individuals and their supporters with options and answers and to streamline access to long term services and supports. The System provides valuable tools to strengthen community networks and promote person-centered practices, to support individuals in making informed decisions.
* Since the last report to the Board, three CILs have joined No Wrong Door and are using CRIA to make automated referrals and to deliver Options Counseling, a person-centered decision support. Since the last Board meeting, two local Departments of Social Services joined No Wrong Door in Northern Virginia. In Richmond, two statewide organizations joined: Open Door Resource Center, a non-profit veteran’s advocacy agency; And the Virginia Poverty Law Center, providing legal counsel to low income individuals and families.

**Ms. Terry Smith, agency representative, Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS):**

**Waiver Operations**

DMAS, in collaboration with DBHDS submitted “Evidence Reports” to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These documents report to CMS on the Commonwealth’s progress in meeting CMS waiver assurances and are necessary for waiver renewals for the former Day Support and Developmental Disability waivers. Additionally, the Alzh. Assisted Living and Technology Assisted Waivers were submitted. CMS has ninety days to approve the materials or request additional information.

**Waiver Redesign**

DMAS is working with DBHDS on several areas of implementation on the three waiver redesigns. In particular, DMAS is working on updated regulations and policy manuals. CMS has approved the redesign and associated rate changes have been implemented. There are several issues that require additional work for implementation

**Consumer-Directed Services**

DMAS is in negotiations with Public Partnerships for extension of the current consumer directed contract. Negotiations continue and once they have concluded the Board will be notified. There are two annual one-year extensions that could be granted under the current contract.

**Overtime for Attendants – Department of Labor**
Effective July 1, 2016, by directive of the General Assembly, overtime is no longer paid for any single attendant who works more than 40 hours per week for a single consumer (employer). Questions and Answers have been posted on the DMAS website, letters to individuals impacted have been sent by the Fiscal/Employer Agent, PPL, and data to understand the number impacted has been gathered. Live-in attendants may work any number of hours and do not receive overtime pay per the federal Department of Labor Ruling. All other attendants may work only 40 hours per a single individual. Please watch the website for additional details. It is likely that there will be requests for an “exceptions” process authority which was not provided by the General Assembly. DMAS is working on budget projections based on a series of scenarios.

**Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee**

JLARC has completed a study of Medicaid long-term care services. Recommendations from that study were presented to the at the December 12, 2016 meeting of the Committee.

**Mr. Ron Lanier, Director, Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH):**

**Communications Access Fund (CAF) Update**:

In our ongoing effort to enhance access to healthcare, the VDDHH Director and Deputy Director held its second meeting with representatives of the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV). Initial discussion was focused on the last meeting that occurred several months ago on education of physicians and the introduction of the Communication Access Fund (CAF) concept. MSV staff’s research into the issues had found implications concerning liabilities and malpractice. MSV stated they are committed to educating approximately 20,000 licensed and practicing physicians in the COV. They explained that doctors have CEU requirements and a new diagnosis code which requires physicians to take a two-day boot camp or 16 hours. VDDHH shared some stories concerning communication barriers with physicians, pointed out some considerations regarding the interpreting field, and revisited the concept of CAF. MSV stated they will continue planning an educational curriculum that will launch in early 2017, and acknowledged a willingness to research further into CAF. VDDHH offered to review and provide feedback on any final draft of the educational curriculum.

**Videophones in Public Libraries Update:**

The Statewide Interagency Team (SIT)\* is continuing its collaboration with the Library of VA in an effort enhance communications access by having videophones (VP) installed at select public library locations. The next step is to engage the videophone providers in a panel discussion to work out the logistics and address any questions or concerns. That meeting will take place in mid-January, 2017. Following that will be an introduction of the library representative to the VP provider assigned to the associated area.

*\*SIT consists of representatives from these agencies that have programs that specifically serve persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, and Deafblind: 1) VDDHH; 2) DARS; 3) DBVI; and 4) Valley CSB.*

**Hearing Loops – Get This One Done!**:

VDDHH recently collaborated with the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) in hosting a presentation by Dr. Juliette Sterkens, a Board Certified Audiologist, on Hearing Loops. On behalf of HLAA, Dr. Sterkens is traveling the country educating and encouraging the installation of Hearing Loops in public venues such as, churches, theaters, museums, etc., and anywhere communication with the public takes place. Following is a link to an article that appeared in the Richmond Times-Dispatch (11/28/16) about Hearing Loop installations at UVA. That article, including how loops work, can be found here.

**DD Waivers Waiting List as of 12/2/2016**

| **Priority Level** | **Waiting List** |
| --- | --- |
| Priority 1 | **2924** |
| Priority 2 | **4250** |
| Priority 3 | **3406** |
| Unknown | **551** |
| **TOTAL** | **11,131** |

**Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K)**:

Several professionals in the deaf community have been advocating addressing the apparent deprivation of early language development experienced by Deaf children, rendering them unprepared for kindergarten. The focus of LEAD-K is to promote language equality by advocating for deaf children to have access to both American Sign Language (ASL) and English. Initial strategies include raising awareness and understanding to the general public, parents and DOE, and to work with partners to change public policy related to the education of Deaf children.

**Ms. Deanna Parker, agency representative, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS):**

| **Training Center** | **Current Census as of 12/12/16** | **Current Census as of 12/12/16** | **Current Census as of 12/12/16** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ICF/IID** | **NF** | **Total** |
| **CVTC** | **148** | **25** | **173** |
| **SEVTC** |  |  | **67** |
| **SWVTC** |  |  | **79** |
| **Total** |  |  | **319** |

**DBHDS Independent Housing Outcomes Table 11/30/2016**

| Baseline # of People in Target Population Living in their own home (as of July 2015) | 343 |
| --- | --- |
| Number of People in Target Population Living in their own home (after July 2015) | 213 |
| **TOTAL # of People in Target Population Living in their own home** | 556 |
| # of Rental Assistance Resources Set-Aside for the Target Population | 382 |
| # of individuals in Application/Voucher Intake/Housing Search Process | 76 |

**\*Settlement Agreement Population** - Individuals with developmental disabilities who are included in the target population under the Commonwealth’s Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice [United States V. Commonwealth of Virginia, United States District Court for Eastern District of Virginia (Civil Action No. 3:12 CV 059)] are as follows: (1) individuals currently reside at any of the Commonwealth’s training centers, (2) individuals that meet the criteria for Developmental Disability Waiver (includes individuals who currently have BI, FIS or CL waivers), or (3) individuals who currently reside in a nursing home or ICF-IDD. **Own Home** - Non-provider owned or operated housing that is leased or owned by an individual in the target population. **Rental Assistance Set-aside** - rental assistance that is made available specifically individuals who are in the target population. **Application/Voucher Intake/Housing Search Process** - process in which individuals in the target population: have been referred to a PHA and are completing a program application and submitting required documentation; 2) the individual has submitted an application and associated documents that are under review by the PHA determine program eligibility; 3) the individual has received rental assistance and is actively looking for housing.

**IFSP**

The IFSP funding period for FY2017 opened on November 15, 2016. The application is available online on the DBHDS website. As of 12/12/2016 2259 applications have been received. The IFSP Council met in Richmond on November 11-12 for an orientation session and discussion of the process for developing a state plan. Future meetings will be held on January 27, February 10, March 10, and April 28, 2017.

**DD Waivers Updates**

* FIS waiver slots were approved by CMS on 11/2 and are being distributed to CSB’s for assignment during scheduled WSAC meetings. Approximately ten WASC meetings have been held with more scheduled this month and January 2017.
* Implementation of new daily rates and tiered reimbursement for sponsored residential on 1/1.
* The following activities are continuing:
* Development of permanent proposed waiver regulations
* Development of the DD Waivers provider manual
* Town Hall Forums are being held across the state for input into the waiver regulations and policy manual
	+ Extensive training and outreach to providers and family members:
* 3,450 stakeholders have received training on the amended waivers.
* Held 31 weekly open conference calls for providers and families ranging between 120-150 callers.

**HCBS Settings Regulation**

On 12/2/2016 Virginia submitted its responses to feedback from CMS on the STP submitted April 3, 2016. VA received initial approval of the revised STP on 12/9/2016. The revised STP is posted on the DBHDS website.

**Mr. John Eisenberg, agency representative, Department of Education (VDOE):**

* **Inclusion Guide.** Students with the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities’ Youth Leadership Forum and the Virginia Department of Education’s “I’m Determined” Project, working with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, have published “A Guide to Planning an Inclusion Project” to help school communities raise awareness about disabilities and the importance of building inclusive school communities. The guidebook includes sample activities and resources for use by elementary, middle, and high schools to promote disability awareness and inclusiveness. Development of the guidebook began four years ago, when the student leaders asked VDOE special education staff what could be done to raise awareness about students with disabilities. [The department staff challenged the students to develop a proposal and provided a grant to support their efforts.](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/transition_svcs/inclusion-project.pdf)
* **Restraint and Seclusion Regulations** will come back to the Board of Education for Second Review in February 2017. A summary of the public comment to date will be given to the Board with key policy questions so that they can direct the DOE staff to make any necessary changes. Final review (Vote) will be scheduled for March 2017. After final review the Executive Branch Review begins (Sec of Ed., Attorney General, Department of Planning and Budget, and Governor). After that review is complete the regulations come back to the Board of Education for Final Review.
* **ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act.** The Department of Education is the midst of developing its state plan for the USDOE to review. Final regulations were just published last week and there were changes in the submission timelines. VDOE will submit our plan in September of 2017. Implementation dates have also changed to the 2018-2019 School Year. Stakeholder meetings will be ongoing. There were a number of significant changes to ESSA compared to the previous rules for accountability. [A summary can be found here](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/accountability/2016/11nov/essabriefing.pdf).
* **Budget cuts** – VDOE took an agency wide 7.5% cut in state funding and 0.5% cut in IDEA Federal funding. Cuts include loss of dollars to fund the new state requirements for Dyslexia as well as the loss of a full time position to direct State Operated Programs.
* **State IEP System** – Final stages of awarding a vendor contract. VDOE is awaiting final sign offs from VITA to announce the selected vendor. Systems development will begin immediately upon awarding the RFP.
* **Commission on Youth Study on Inclusion** – The VDOE completed a required study by the COY to explore the barriers and recommendations to serving students with disabilities in their local public schools. The report was compiled after a facilitated stakeholder meeting with over 30 organizations and agencies. A copy of the report has been provided to the executive director.
* **Commission on Youth Study on Regional Tuition Reimbursement Programs** – VDOE delivered the second report of a two-year study on regional tuition reimbursement programs. Recommendations for reform models were provided and the COY members asked for update in six months. [The report can be found here.](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/accountability/2016/11-nov/essa-briefing.pdf)

**Ms. Melissa Gibson, agency representative, Disability Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)**

**Looking Back on FY2016**

The Disability Law Center entered its third year in FY17, holding an Open House on October 19, 2016. In addition to welcoming a new year, dLCV staff completed Federal reporting, looking back on significant work achieved under the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Act grant.

**Upcoming Agency Activities**

Having finalized service objectives, dLCV staff is working individually and systemically on issues that impact people with disabilities, including education, transition and vocational services. dLCV staff are also working on critical issues in the service delivery system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For example, staff recently updated the crisis services portal, which is live online at dlcv.org. dLCV staff are also preparing for the upcoming legislative session, reviewing bills and meeting with advocacy partners. Please visit dLCV.org or [facebook.com/dlcv](http://www.facebook.com/dlcv) for the most recent information.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

TheChair called for any other business. There being none, the Chair proceeded with closing comments and reminded board members to complete the evaluation forms, Committee Survey forms, and to ensure their directory information is accurate. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.