**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***December 14, 2016***

**Committee Members Present**:

Summer Sage (Chair)

Angela West

Melissa Gibson

Angela Sadsad

Ramona Schaffer (on behalf of Terry Smith)

John Kelly

Deanna Parker

Alexis Nichols

John Eisenberg

Phillip Caldwell

Donna Gilles

Stephen Joseph

**Committee Members Absent:**

Felicia Hamilton

Jessica Philips

**VBPD Staff Present**:

John Cimino

**CALL TO ORDER/CONTENT AGENDA:** Ms. Summer Sage called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and introduced a new process for dealing with summary agenda items under a consent agenda. The consent agenda items were introduced. They included Review of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from September Meeting, Executive Committee Update, and Board Policy Activities Update. There were no objections to the consent agenda process and no objections to or discussion of the items contained therein. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. John Kelley to approve the consent agenda items and the **MOTION** was seconded by Ms. Alexis Nichols. The Committee voted unanimously to **APPROVE** the **MOTION**.

**VDOE POLICY UPDATE:** Mr.John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), provided the Committee an overview of the major ongoing policy issues at the VDOE. The items covered included the status of the Restraint and Seclusion regulatory process and the major points of contention involved in the process, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan development and implementation, and recent policy developments related to inclusion and the state’s regional programs for students with disabilities. Regarding Restraint and Seclusion, John Eisenberg explained that the regulatory process could take anywhere from eight months to eight years. Regarding ESSA, John Eisenberg explained that stakeholder meetings are in the works; and that the state is looking at multi-dimensional measurements of school success, as well as at how to align federal and state accountability standards. There is a new focus at the VDOE on chronic absenteeism which will likely be reflected in the Commonwealth’s ESSA plan that will be submitted to the US DOE in September. The VDOE recently created a document in partnership with VCU’s Partnership for People with Disabilities, which incorporated ideas from multiple stakeholders about how to increase inclusion in the Commonwealth.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Cimino provided an update to the Committee on assessment work, including a discussion of the results of a recent survey of Board members about priorities, barriers and recommendations relevant to the areas covered in the 2017 assessment: employment and education. There were 10 responses total, which is less than one third of the Board membership, but the responses were consistent with recommendations and identified barriers available from other sources. The Committee also discussed the draft values statements for both sections of the assessment. Several recommendations were made to improve these, including: providing a clearer explanation of what “integration” means; adding a sentence linking “diversity” with broader civil rights communities; and adding “financial stewardship” as one of the principles that drives the Board’s work. The Committee also agreed to hold an interim Committee meeting in February, prior to the next full Board meeting in March, to discuss assessment recommendations to be included in the final assessment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Sage made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The motion was **SECONDED** and **APPROVED**.