**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Advocacy and Outreach (A&O) Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 3, 2015**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nancy Briggs, Carina Elgin, Marisa Laios, Ron Lanier, Korinda Rusinyak, Board Chairman, Matthew Shapiro, Ed Turner, Travis Webb, and Rose Williams.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Angela Yong West, A&O Committee Chair

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:** Katherine Lawson, Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee, Kara White

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Advocacy and Outreach Committee was called to order by Matthew Shapiro at 9:35 am. Following introductions, the committee reviewed the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The committee reviewed the March 18, 2014 minutes. As there were no corrections needed, a motion for approval was made by Rose Williams and seconded by Marisa Laios. The **MOTION** was unanimously **APPROVED**.

**REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Katherine Lawson reviewed the Executive Committee’s work of the morning. She reflected upon the content of the meeting including board member attendance, the Executive Director’s update and the Board’s budget. She reviewed the Executive Committee’s discussion of possible Committee structure changes and possible changes to how the Assessment of the Disability System in Virginia is conducted.

**DISCUSSION OF STATE PLAN OBJECTIVES:** Katherine Lawson reviewed the progress to date of the Leadership Empowerment Abuse Prevention Grant. The letter of request for a one year no cost extension was also reviewed by the A & O Committee. The Committee was excited to learn about the activities of the project and that over 100 individuals had been trained to date. The project staff had learned that smaller groups are more effective so more time is needed to reach the goal of training 182 individuals in healthy relationships. The partnership has obtained additional funds and has funds remaining to conduct trainings for an additional year. Ms. Lawson highlighted a training which took place Monday June 1 where professional support providers were trained and how participants expressed great excitement about the initiative. A motion for approval of the one year no cost extension was made by Ed Turner and seconded by Marisa Laios. The **MOTION** was unanimously **APPROVED**.

Katherine Lawson then referred to EC 6-1 for a review of the Communications activity this period.

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee then provided an update about the Partners in Policy (PIP) program. She reviewed the efforts her team is making to reduce costs while maintain the integrity of the program. She reflected on the lower cost venue, and hotel accommodations as well as locating speakers from within Virginia as an alternative to costly travel and hotel costs of out of state speakers. She introduced a new staff intern, Ronita Wilson, and her work on social media intended to build a strong base of self-advocates. She also has formed an advisory team of graduates to work with staff as the PIP and YLF program are developed. The committee was very pleased to see investments in alumni development. Kara White then described the demographics of the 28 individuals who will be in the 2016 PIP class. The class is quite diverse in cultural and racial characteristics as well as statewide representativeness. There are also four men in the class, two of whom are fathers of young children with disabilities.

The committee then reviewed the state plan outcomes. There was discussion of outcomes which have been achieved during the five year state plan and discussion of the continuing importance of stories of individuals with Developmental Disabilities being shared, the one area which has outcomes net yet met.

The meeting adjourned at 10: 45 a.m.