**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**DRAFT Community Living and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 18, 2015**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian Clukey, Dennis Findley,

Atima Omara-Alwala, Jessica Phillips,

Cindy Rudy, Angela Sadsad

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**  Ron King, Dennis Manning, Kathleen Vaughn

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:** Heidi Lawyer

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:45 a.m.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA:** The meeting was called to order at 9:45am. Committee Chair, Angela Sadsad proceeded to review the agenda and asked if there were any questions. She then asked committee members to introduce themselves to new member Cindy Rudy.

**REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:** Ms. Sadsad asked for any corrections to the December 3, 2014 meeting minutes. There were none. Dennis Findley made a MOTION that the minutes be approved as written and Cindy Rudy. The MOTION was carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Ms. Sadsad presented highlights from the Executive Committee meeting which included a fiscal report. She noted that a revised fiscal attachment would be sent electronically to the Board as the wrong attachment had been included in the Board packet. She reported on the Executive Committee’s discussion of potential committee restructuring now that the Board is funding less grants and grant selection and oversight has been a primary role of the committees. The Executive Committee also discussed potential restructuring of the Disability Assessment to ensure it meets the mandate but also ensures a manageable process. The Committee agreed that it would have a separate meeting to discuss both of these issues and report to the full Board in June.

**DISCUSSION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF STATE PLAN OBJECTIVES:** The committee reviewed and discussed current State Plan Objectives and discussed grant activities relevant to its objectives. Committee staff reported on activities found on attachment CLT 3. Committee members were provided updated status on the ABLE grant, and the EasyLiving Home (ELH) contract. The Accessibility Reference Manual created by the ABLE project was highly praised by Dennis Findley who recommended that the Board find a way to ensure that it is distributed to architects throughout Virginia. The ELH contract was discussed and it was noted that they would likely be submitting a renewal request in June but had been informed that the Board was carefully reviewing its funding priorities. The Committee suggested that ELH be considered as a presenter to the full Board at the June meeting. The Committee reviewed the other state plan objectives, focusing on one that had not yet been met, Objective 2-14 that strives to educate at least “500 individuals and policymakers on best practices and mechanisms for financial stability development,” The Committee discussed passage of the state version of the federal ABLE Act that will allow savings accounts for certain eligible individuals with disabilities, similar to 529 accounts. Ms. Heidi Lawyer noted that it would probably be at least a year or longer until regulations or guidelines were developed and at that time, should the Board still want to pursue this objective, there would potentially be opportunities for education and training. The Board also discussed Objective 2-16. Although this objective has been met, an activity that the Committee had wished to undertake has not occurred: “Promote, through education and training, improved driver competence when interacting with individuals with disabilities**”.** The Committee had had an excellent presentation from GRTC on their training program, but management and the contract have changed since that time and the Board’s former transit representative is no longer with GRTC. In addition the Board determined at its December 2014 meeting that it would not release any RFPs this year. The Committee determined that it would have further discussion at the June meeting and decide at that time whether to continue to keep these two activities in the state plan for its final year.

**GUEST SPEAKER, Eric Leabough, housing specialist, department for behavioral health and developmental services**

Mr. Eric Leabough presented on the DOJ Settlement Agreement with respect to independent and integrated housing initiatives. Mr. Leabough discussed the Rental ChoiceVA pilot project, the HUD special admission preference for members of the DOJ target population, Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan (LIHTC QAP) Changes, the Independent Housing Interest List, and the Commonwealth’s Housing and Supportive Service Summit. The committee had many questions and members were told that they could email additional questions to Ms. Lawyer who would then send them on to Mr. Leabough.

**PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING**: The Committee did not have time to address planning for the next meeting other than review of its state plan objectives.

**ADJOURNED:** The meeting adjourned at 11:00.