**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Community Living and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: June 3, 2015**

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

Dennis Manning, Mark McGregor,

Cindy Rudy, Angela Sadsad

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Atima Omara-Alwala, Jessica Phillips,

Kathleen Vaughn

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:** Heidi Lawyer

**GUESTS:** John Cimino, Bob Adams

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:40 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 and staff to introduce themselves.

**REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:** Ms. Sadsad asked for any corrections to the March 18 2015 meeting minutes. There were none. Dennis Findley made a MOTION that the minutes be approved as written and Cindy Rudy seconded The MOTION was carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Ms. Sadsad presented highlights from the Executive Committee meeting. In addition to the routine business of the Executive Committee, Ms. Sadsad, referenced the Executive Director’s report and asked Ms. Heidi Lawyer, Executive Director to elaborate on key activities. She discussed the Executive Committee’s dialogue on Board committee restructuring and restructuring of the Disability Assessment. She also reminded the Committee members that the State Plan development retreat would be a two day meeting on September 9-10. Ms. Sadsad also discussed the Executive Committee’s recommendation regarding alternating the years of the Board’s training programs.

**DISCUSSION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF STATE PLAN OBJECTIVES:** Ms. Sadsad reviewed progress on the state plan objectives, focusing on the work done on the ABLE grant which developed the Accessibility Guide for Building Inspectors. Mr. Dennis Findley reiterated how useful the manual is to architects. Ms. Lawyer provided an update on follow up activity designed to increase dissemination, including the publication in the Northern Virginia American Institute for Architects Chapter newsletter and a meeting with the state AIA chapter staff. The state AIA is interested in creating a webinar to educate its members and has offered the possibility of a presentation at the state AIC Conference in November 2015. Bob Adams, consultant to EasyLiving Home was present and he noted that he was heavily disseminating the manual electronically as well. Ms. Lawyer asked Mr. Adams if he could follow up with her on where and to whom it had been disseminated.

The Committee reviewed the other objectives in the State Plan to assess progress. Two objectives have not been met. The objective relating to driver training and etiquette was not able to be addressed because the Board’s contact at GRTC accepted another position and the management of the transit services changed. It was noted that the Committee still had a year to try to address this objective as well as the objective related to financial stability. Ms. Lawyer referenced the state version of the ABLE act that had passed (allowing creating of 529 like accounts for individuals with disabilities under the age of 26). She noted that when regulations or policies relating to development of these accounts were under development the Board could potential have input into development and/or training.

**GUEST SPEAKER, BOB ADAMS, CONSULTANT, VIRGINIA ACCESSIBLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS, Inc. (EasyLiving Home)**

Mr. Bob Adams presented an overview of the work of the EasyLiving Home Board for 2014-2015 as well as future plans. He noted that EasyLiving Home came to Virginia (via the Board) right at the time of the housing market crash so things have been slow but are now picking up. Mr. Adams reiterated the universality of ELH for people with mobility challenges, mothers with strollers, and the elderly who want to age in Place. Habitat is now building all of its homes to the ELH standard. Dunlora (Charlottesville) build a subdivision with a large percentage of EasyLiving Homes and sales were excellent. With an ELH certification, builders can automatically qualify for the $5,000 Livable Home Tax Credit which is another incentive. The first Housing Accessibility Interchange was held bringing together a number of individuals and organizations that attended the original Board sponsored ELH Summit in 2008, Committee members made suggestions for additional outreach and marketing of the ELH program so that it could increase its visibility. This included outreach to the realtors association (there had been someone on the ELH Board from this organization at one time). Other suggestions included reaching out to the insurance and mortgage industries; reaching out to local governments to look at potential points toward the building approval process; reaching out to veteran’s organizations, and getting a YouTube channel for short videos.

**EASY LIVING HOME FUNDING REQUEST**: Following discussion, Mr. Mark McGregor made a MOTION that the Committee recommend to the full Board approval of the $10,000 funding request (via a contract renewal) for EasyLiving Home with the condition that the ELH Board develop a financial sustainability plan during the contract year. Dennis Findley seconded the MOTION Committee which passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF 2012-2016 STATE PLAN OBJECTIVES.** The Committee did not make any changes its objectives for the FFY 2016 State Plan Update.

**PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING:**  Ms. Lawyer noted that the committees would not meet in September as the State Plan development retreat was being held.

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