**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***Dec. 4, 2019***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Felicia Hamilton (Chair)

Maya Simmons

Summer Sage

Philip Caldwell

Ann Bevan

Donna Gilles

Deanna Parker

Dawn Missory

Eric Raff

Dennis Findley

Sarah Kranz-Ciment

Colleen Miller

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Samantha Hollins

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:**

John Cimino

Linh Thi Nguyen

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair, Felicia Hamilton, called the meeting to order at 9:18 AM and commenced introductions.

The Chair then introduced the minutes from the June meeting. There was no discussion, and no requested changes to those minutes. Mr. Dennis Findley made a **MOTION** to approve the Committee minutes from the September meeting. Ms. Colleen Miller **SECONDED** the motion and it was **APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

The Chair gave the Executive Committee update, including the following highlights: The Grant Review Team met since last Board meeting and will be recommending 6 proposals for funding. The first 6 PIP session shave been held. The State Plan Report in the Board packet highlights challenges, including that of 41 activities in the plan, 8 are experiencing delays. The Board has met 44 of its performance measures as of this date. The Board will be submitting a new state plan update by January 1, 2020.

**COMMITTEE NAME CHANGE:**

The Chair reminded the Committee that due to reconsideration of Board Committee functions each of the committees is to discuss whether they would like to change the name of their committees. Mr. John Cimino, Deputy Director, reminded the committee of prior discussions about whether to change the name from the Policy Research and Evaluation Committee to simply the Policy Committee. Mr. Dennis Findley questioned whether that would sufficiently inform new board members and outside entities of the functions of the committee. Ms. Colleen Miller suggested the Policy Advisory Committee. There was general agreement on this name. Mr. Philip Caldwell made a **MOTION** to recommend to the full board that its name be changed to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC); Mr. Findley **SECONDED** that motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**BOARD POLICY UPDATE:**

Mr. Cimino provided an update on the Board’s policy work, including a summary of the number of the Board’s public comment activity over the course of the current state plan. The most recent public comment consisted of a joint sign on letter drafted by the Virginia Oral Health Coalition (recently renamed the Virginia Health Catalyst), which the Board joined as a signing party. This comment made the recommendation to include a comprehensive dental benefit in Virginia’s Medicaid state plan. Currently, Medicaid covers dental care for the young, those under age 21, and the aged, those over age 65; and most if not all managed care plans do provide some optional dental benefits. This prompted discussion among committee members about issues with dental care for people with developmental disabilities, including a lack of providers qualified and willing to serve people with special needs. Some committee members stated that there is a perception that some providers overuse sedation and anesthetics when providing dental care to people with special needs. It is not clear whether these perceptions are accurate, because there is no way to assess the need for these interventions except on a case by case basis. The Virginia Oral Health Coalition does provide training to dental providers on how to provide effective dental care to adults with developmental disabilities and special dental care needs. It was also noted that hearing aids are not currently covered by Medicaid for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**PROJECT LIVING WELL:**

Ms. Linh Thi Nguyen, Policy Analyst, provided an update on progress on the Project Living Well. What was previously described as a report card is being rebranded as a Trend Report, because the term report card implied that the Board was making more comprehensive conclusions about the Commonwealth’s performance than the data supports. Instead, the data will be presented as trends over years for selected data points. Additionally, information will be presented slightly differently from how it was initially envisioned, but still in keeping with the original intent of providing data snapshots that highlight trends in disability services and outcomes.

**HEALTHCARE AND MEDICAID ASSESSMENTS:**

Mr. Cimino provided an update on progress towards completing the Assessments on Healthcare and Medicaid. Progress towards these assessments is substantially delayed due to various factors, but it is still anticipated that they will be completed by the end of the state fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2020. Mr. Cimino reviewed available data on health disparities between people with and people without disabilities, including disparities in accessing healthcare, healthcare outcomes, and health behaviors. This data reveals a number of health disparities that affect people with disabilities. The Committee discussed what data might be available related to Medicaid as a healthcare funder, including the number of people on Medicaid who have a developmental disability, the number of newly eligible Medicaid beneficiaries who have developmental disabilities, and whether there is any available Medicaid data on specific services that can highlight shortages. Additional follow up conversations with DMAS representatives will be necessary to answer these questions.

**COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Committee members expressed an interest in having a presentation from an expert about supported decision making and guardianship issues. Ms. Miller suggested that dLCV may be able and willing to provide such a presentation. Committee staff will follow up on this request.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:16am.