**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Minutes**

**Dec. 9, 2020**

**Committee Members Present:**

Ann Bevan

Phil Caldwell

Dennis Findley

Donna Gilles

Sarah Kranz-Ciment

Rachel Loria

Dawn Missory

Caroline Raker

Eric Raff

Deanna Parker

Maya Simmons

**Committee Members Absent:**

Samantha Hollins

**VBPD Staff Present:**

Nia Harrison

Teri Morgan

Linh Nguyen

Henry Street

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair, Mr. Phil Caldwell, called the meeting to order at 10:36 am. Following the call to order, Mr. Caldwell reviewed the agenda and noted that Ms. Harrison would be staffing the meeting rather than Ms. Huerta.

**SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:**

Mr. Caldwell asked for volunteers to serve as Vice Chair. Committee members discussed the potential conflict of interest from agency representatives serving in leadership positions. Following the discussion, Mr. Dennis Findley volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Donna Gilles made a **MOTION** to appoint Mr. Dennis Findley as Vice Chair. This **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Ms. Maya Simmons. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Mr. Caldwell provided highlights from the Executive Committee meeting.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE:**

Ms. Nia Harrison and Ms. Teri Morgan provided updates on the four assessments underway, including a summary of the topics and timeline. Mr. Eric Raff suggested assessing the health and safety of people with disabilities in facilities during COVID-19. Ms. Harrison agreed, but noted that the topic may be best addressed at a later time when more data and staff resources are available.

Ms. Harrison asked Committee members to begin thinking about their willingness and ability to serve on an ad hoc committee in April 2021 to review the draft recommendations.

**PROJECT LIVING WELL UPDATE:**

Ms. Linh Nguyen provided updates on Project Living Well trend reports, including the status of each trend report and their reach.

**POLICY/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Ms. Harrison and Ms. Morgan provided updates on results from the 2020 Special Session and anticipated topics for the 2021 General Assembly Session. Ms. Harrison also provided updates on the Board’s primary COVID-19 advocacy efforts to date.

**COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS:**

Mr. Caldwell asked for feedback on the meeting structure and suggestions for future meeting topics. Mr. Caldwell suggested hearing from Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on how COVID-19 has affected facility residents, based on information they receive from the CHRIS reporting system. Mr. Findley noted that it would be interesting to learn more about a forthcoming report stemming from Senate Bill 132 of the 2020 General Assembly Session. The bill authorized a study of financial wellness among group home residents as well as employment barriers for people with disabilities. Ms. Deanna Parker said it would be helpful to hear from the disAbility Law Center of Virginia on guardianship. Specifically, the extent to which individuals under guardianship can participate in reviews to demonstrate compliance with the new home- and community-based settings (HCBS) rule. Ms. Rachel Loria noted that she could work with her colleagues to schedule the presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:31 AM.