**Virginia Board for with Disabilities**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

***Dec.6, 2017***

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities held its regular quarterly meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 4700 South Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Vicky Beatty, Curtis Andrews, Teri Morgan (designee for Ann Bevan), Randy Burak, Phil Caldwell, Theresa Casselman, Allison Coles-Johnson, John Eisenberg, Dennis Findley, Melissa Gibson, Felicia Hamilton, Ray Hopkins, Jarl Jackson, Richard Kriner, Ron Lanier, Donna Lockwood, Rachel Loughlin, Mary McAdam, Leah Mills, Christopher Nace, Alexis Nichols, Atima Omara, Deanna Parker, Ethel Parris-Gainer, Caroline Raker, Cindy Rudy, Alexus Smith, Maya Simmons, Jamie Snead, Ed Turner, Frederique Vincent, Travis Webb

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Donna Gilles, John Kelly, Jocelyn Kilgore, Traci LaGanke, Summer Sage, Angela Sadsad, Matthew Shapiro, Angela West

**LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:** Dana Yarbrough, Director of the Center for Family Involvement, Partnership for People with Disabilities (PPD), Yali Pang, fellow from PPD, and Amel Ibrahim, PPD Cultural Broker, by video gave a luncheon presentation on cultural and linguistic diversity. Following the luncheon, long-time Board member Ron Lanier, Director of the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was recognized for his service to the Board.

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Board Chair, Mary McAdam, called the meeting to order at 1 pm. Ms. McAdam welcomed the new Board members and asked them to introduce themselves. New staff member Henry Street was introduced as well. She also thanked the luncheon speakers and reviewed the housekeeping notes. She thanked the luncheon speaker again.

**APPROVAL OF Sept. 13, 2017 MINUTES:** The Chair asked if there were any changes to the September’s Board Meeting minutes. None were noted. Ms. Cindy Rudy moved to **APPROVE** the minutes and Mr. Randy Burak seconded. The Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE.** The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  The Board received no public comments.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

Agenda representatives who were present provided oral reports. Ms. Lawyer reminded the Board members that they were provided written reports by email from most of the agencies. Those are incorporated into the minutes below as submitted by the agencies.

**Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Leah Mills, agency designee:**

**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Deanna Parker agency designee:**

**Waiver Waiting List/Slot Summary (11/24/2017)**

| **Wavier Types** | **# of Individuals** |
| --- | --- |
| Community Living (CL) | 11,302 |
| Family and Individual Supports (FIS) | 1,762 |
| Building Independence (BI) | 300 |

**Total 13,364**

Priority 1 3,018

Priority 2 5,241

Priority 3 3,942

**Combined Waiting List (Total) 12,201**

**Training Center Census (11/27/2017)**

* CVTC 123
* SEVTC 73
* SWVTC 58
* **Total 255**

**DBHDS Independent Housing Outcomes Summary-(10/30/2017)**

* Baseline # of People in \*Target Population Living in their own home 343
* Number of People in \*Target Population Living in their \*own home 359

**TOTAL # of People in \*Target Population Living in their \*own home 702**

* # of Rental Assistance Resources Set-Aside for the \*Target Population 513
* # of individuals in \*Application/Voucher Intake/Housing Search Process 46

**DD Waivers Update**

* All FY 2018 FIS and CL slots have been assigned through the WSAC process. FY 2018 BI slots will be assigned as part of the regional slot assignment process.  The regional WSAC meetings are currently being scheduled. DBHDS and DMAS completed its report to the GA on changes to the sponsored residential service and impact of the SIS. DBHDS completed its report on the waiting list.
* The OAG is reviewing the final draft of the permanent regulations for the DD waivers and case management.
* The three waiver services delayed for 2018 implementation by the GA (Benefits Planning, Community Guide/Peer Mentor, Employment and Community Transportation) were released for public comment 11/1-12/1/2017. Waiver amendments incorporating these services are expected to be submitted to CMS in mid-December.

**Provider Self-Assessment for HCBS Settings Regulation Final Rule**

The online self-assessment portal for providers of group home residential, sponsored residential, group day, and group supported employment closed on 11/8/2017. DBHDS staff will work with DMAS to review evidence submitted through the online portal. DMAS and DBHDS continue work developing a process for ensuring new provider compliance with the HCBS settings regulation.

**IFSP**

* Applications were accepted from October 23rd through November 17th via new a new online application process.
* over 3,500 applications were received and are currently being screened.
* Notice of decisions will be distributed to all families by January 15th, 2018.

IFSP staff finalized an MOA allowing the use of debit cards for recipient fund issuance for FY2018 fund.

**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), John Eisenberg, agency designee:**

* **Office of Specialized Facilities and Family Engagement**
	+ Planning the 4th annual Advocacy Symposium
	+ Continued training and fiscal support to Parent Resource Centers
	+ Continued partnerships with VCU – Center for Family Involvement and PEATC
	+ Building stronger relationship with the CPRC – Formed families Forward
	+ Continue to recruit new members for the VDOE Family Engagement Network (FEN) – newest recruit is Sal Romero from Harrisonburg and the VA BOE
	+ New effort to take family engagement into the SOPs and private school for students with disabilities environments
	+ Increasing private school monitoring review frequency to better ensure continued compliance and that corrective actions remain effective (there has been an increase in the “complaints” regarding students in private school placements)
	+ Analyzing 2016 – 2017 Indicator 8 data to determine “local” needs at the LEA level
* **Office of Special Education Program Improvement**
	+ VA IEP: Training for the first cohort of VA IEP is in full swing. (20 school divisions) The majority of the divisions will receive training prior to the holiday break.  We are in the process of choosing cohort 2 for training this summer.
* **Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services**
	+ Restraint and Seclusions will be going back to the Board of Education for Technical Amendments as requested by the Office of the Attorney at the January Board of Education Meeting.
* **Office of Special Education Instructional Services**
* Science and Special Educator Teams Academy: Middle and high school science and special educator co-teaching teams working in the disciplines of physical science, Earth science, and biology were the participants in this program.
* English Co-teaching Academy: Addressing Non-fiction and Writing in the Co-Taught Classroom: Based on outcome data, non-fiction and writing were the areas of need. The academy focused on improving content understanding, pedagogical strategies, collaboration/co-teaching strategies, and networking.
	+ Mathematics Co-teaching Academies: Algebraic Thinking and Reasoning in the Co-taught Secondary Mathematics Class: The focus was utilizing co-teaching approaches to deliver specially designed instruction that includes the evidence-based practices of vocabulary instruction and the Concrete-Representational-Abstract (CRA) sequence. Participants learned how to integrate formative assessment in their classrooms to develop data-driven tiered systems of support and design instruction to meet individual student needs.
	+ Excellence in Co-teaching Initiative: 42 public school demonstration sites showcase general and special education teachers sharing responsibility for the achievement of all students in the general education classroom through co-teaching, collaboration, and implementation of inclusive and research-based practices.
	+ Inclusive Practices Partnership Project: The Best Practice for Inclusive Education Initiative would like to recognize outstanding schools and/or educators who have developed programs that have been designed to ensure students with disabilities, especially those with more significant academic and behavior needs, have access to inclusive education with their peers in the general education setting through a new partnership initiative called the “Inclusive Practice Partnership Project.” The Inclusive Practice Partnership Project is designed as a professional development model to support inclusive education that recognizes and promotes the sharing of resources and expertise of individual schools and team who have demonstrated successful inclusive practice initiatives within the school and community. Applications are due December 1.

**Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), Commissioner, Ray Hopkins**

Commissioner Hopkins reported that DBVI has invoked changes resulting in changes in its 3 prior categories because of the Agency not having sufficient funds so they must prioritize under their Order of Selection. Services have been closed for two months and DBVI is not initiating any new plans. Individuals’ who have already been determined eligible will be considered first and applicants are being screened for services. Priority categories will open up as funds are available. They Agency will continue to work with the Federal Government to spend the pre-employment transition program (PRE-ETS) funds as they are required to do. It has been a difficult process and transition to utilizing the 15 percent of required case service funds for PRE-ETS services. In addition, funds spend for administering these services don’t count toward the 15 percent. As with all agencies, DBVI is concerned about a possible government shut down and the impact that would have on services. The Pay Go Provisions that Congress is looking at could result in significant cuts to discretionary programs like the vocational rehabilitation program and to entitlements.

**Disability Law Center of Virginia (DLCV), Melissa Gibson, agency designee:** dLCV opened its doors to the community on October 26th as part of a series of open houses for which they have secured excellent attendance.  Clients shared their stories and the public had the opportunity to meet and speak with staff regarding dLCV’ s work. In addition, the dLCV Annual Gala and more open houses are planned for next year, so please look out for information by following us on [social media](https://www.facebook.com/disAbilityLawVA/) or joining the dLCV listserv.

End of Year, Looking Back on Achievements. dLCV completed Performance Reports on its Federal grant programs. This includes the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities grant, which funds the majority of dLCV’s work with individuals with developmental disabilities, including special education and community integration. The Annual Statement of Goals and Priorities (SGP) and Annual Program Performance Report (PPR) for FY2017 are now available [on dLCV.org](http://dlcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/DD-PPR-FY17-final.pdf).

New Year, New Objectives and New Staff. dLCV adopted its annual objectives for FY2018, which began on October 1, 2017, including a variety of new project and individual representation objectives, including activities in support of transportation access grant dLCV received from VBPD in FY2017. The Strategic Goals and Focus Areas for FY2018 are now [available online](http://dlcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FY18-GFs-Public-Document.pdf).

dLCV is proud to welcome advocates Ren Faszewski and Hannah Setzer to its staff. Ren comes to us from the world of DD crisis services and will be working in dLCV’s Institutions Unit. Hannah will be working in the Communities Unit.

Systemic Activities. In November, dLCV staff provided free training to individuals seeking information on how to receive and maintain Social Security benefits.

In November, dLCV supported its goal of enforcement of the U.S. v. Commonwealth of Virginia settlement agreement by writing an *amicus brief* in support of individuals with developmental disabilities and the anti-discrimination requirements of *Olmstead*.  The next status conference is an open conference that will take place on December 19th at 10 a.m. at the U.S. District Courthouse in Richmond.

dLCV is preparing for the General Assembly by monitoring legislation that will impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities through the Joint Commission on Healthcare and other activities.

dLCV has completed work on the community critical incident reporting system for staff, an important advocacy tool that will allow dLCV to monitor community provider and identify and respond to trends that impact that health and safety of people with developmental disabilities.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:46 pm.