**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Education & Employment Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: June 3, 2015**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vicki Beatty, Matthew Deans (for Donna Bonessi), Ethel Parris Gainer, Donna Gilles, John Eisenberg, John Kelly, Donna Lockwood

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Mitchell, Mary McAdam

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:** Lynne Talley

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:35 a.m.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA:** The Committee reviewed the agenda.

**PRESENTATION FROM DBHDS:**  Heather Norton, Director of Community Support Services, Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services, presented an update on the Integrated Employment and Community Integration Workgroup (under the DOJ Settlement). The committee is now called the “Employment 1st Workgroup” and is comprised of agency representatives (DARS, DOE, DMAS), providers, self-advocates and families. Their focus is to strengthen the employment system in VA. The committee has advised DBHDS on training for providers, educating self-advocates/families and providers on navigating the Voc Rehab and Waiver systems. The committee also advised DBHDS on redesigning the Waiver which included redefining “pre-vocational” and “group day support” services. Recommendations adopted included converting billable units into hours, wrapping services around Employment and including meaningful community engagement activities. DBHDS will fund a demonstration project to convert day providers to community engagement providers. This is planned for September 2015 – July 2016.

**REVIEW OF MARCH 18, 2015, EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by John Eisenberg and seconded by Donna Gilles to approve the minutes. The **MOTION** was unanimously **APPROVED**.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:** John Kelly provided highlights from the Executive Committee Meeting and the committee discussed recommendations to the full Board on restructuring the standing committee composition and the format of the Triennial Assessment of Disability Services in Virginia.

**DISCUSSION OF STATE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The Committee discussed the two grants: VAIL’s “Opportunities Abound” grant did extensive training in the last quarter conducting 37 workshops; RRTC’s “Employment for All Citizens of Southside” grant had 2 additional placements in the last quarter, bringing the total placements to 8.

The Committee reviewed the “Draft Transition Document.” The Committee recommended paring down and simplifying the document. Ms. Talley will make the revisions to the document and present a draft to the Committee in December.

**REVIEW OF 2016 STATE PLAN UPDATE:** The Committee made no changes to the Draft 2016 State Plan Update.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.