**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***June 12, 2019***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Summer Sage (acting chair)

Philip Caldwell

Terri Morgan

Donna Gilles

Deanna Parker

Katherine Olson

Dawn Missory

Eric Raff

Samantha Hollins

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Felicia Hamilton

Dennis Findley

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:**

John Cimino

Linh Thi Nguyen

**Guests:**

Beth O’Connor (Virginia Rural Health Association)

Katia Zillic

**CALL TO ORDER:** The acting Chair, Ms. Summer Sage, called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM and commenced introductions for the benefit of new members present. The Chair then introduced the minutes from the March meeting. There was no discussion, and no requested changes to those minutes.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Mr. John Cimino, Deputy Director, gave the Executive Committee update, noting the proposed budget that the Executive Committee recommended to the full Board for approval, as well as several grant and event related action items that will be on the agenda for the full Board this afternoon.

**BOARD POLICY UPDATE:** Mr. Cimino provided an update of recent public policy activities, including recent formal public comments, and legislative work related to bills that sought to impose new procedural hurdles to the filing of a lawsuit alleging that the website of a bank, credit union, or other financial institution is inaccessible in violation of the Virginians with Disabilities Act. The Governor ultimately vetoed this legislation, but it is an issue that will likely arise again.

**PROJECT LIVING WELL:** Linh Nguyen, Board staff, provided an overview of the Board’s work on the development of a state scorecard as a sub-recipient of a project of national significance of which the Partnership for People with Disabilities is the primary grantee. There were several concerns and questions raised by committee members about the project, including a question raised by Phil Caldwell about how the Board will be able to provide sufficient detail and context to the data reflected in the scorecard, including caveats about the limitations of the data presented; and questions raised by Ms. Sage about the sustainability of the project and its impact on staff workload. Sam Hollins (VDOE) inquired about the sources of data used in the scorecard template, and whether there wouldn’t be more updated and accurate data to be obtained from state agencies directly. Each of these issues will be further explored in future meetings, and Board staff will connect with state agency representatives as appropriate to discuss applicable data.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Beth O’Connor from the Virginia Rural Health Association spoke to the Committee about Rural Healthcare challenges. Ms. O’Connor outlined the four key issues with rural healthcare: Availability, Accessibility, Affordability, and Acceptability. Issues discussed related to these topics include health professional shortages in rural areas, including both general practitioners and specialists; transportation challenges; negative perceptions and stigma associated with “need for services.” Telehealth and its challenges were discussed as well.

**HEALTHCARE AND MEDICAID ASSESSMENTS:** Following Ms. O’Connor’s presentation, the committee discussed some of the major issues to be addressed in the upcoming Medicaid and Healthcare Assessments. Some of the major issues discussed related to healthcare included healthcare literacy; health equity; and healthcare access. The availability of sign language interpreters at medical facilities; lack of knowledge of the healthcare insurance system, and integration of healthcare services and local school facilities were all discussed in relation to healthcare challenges and opportunities. With respect to Medicaid, the transition to managed care, and Electronic Visit Verification requirements were discussed. There was an interest among committee members to have more than one Assessment subcommittee meeting, and to explore options for participating in these remotely. Remote participation may not be an option, but Committee staff will follow up on that at the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND GUEST SPEAKERS:** No feedback provided this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15.