**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***June 9, 2021***

**Committee Members Present:**

Ann Bevan

Phil Caldwell

Parthy Dinora

Dennis Findley

Felicia Hamilton

Samantha Hollins

Rachel Loria

Dawn Missory

Deanna Parker

Eric Raff

Matthew Shapiro

Maya Simmons

**Committee Members Absent:**

Sarah Kranz-Ciment

**VBPD Staff Present:**

Nia Harrison

Clare Huerta

Teri Morgan

Linh Nguyen

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair, Mr. Phil Caldwell, called the meeting to order at 10:50 am.

**REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Mr. Caldwell provided highlights from the Executive Committee meeting

**DISCUSSION OF ADVOCACY BASED ON 2021 ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Ms. Clare Huerta, Deputy Director of Policy summarized the steps for developing and sharing agency policy assessments. Ms. Huerta initiated a discussion on methods to increase stakeholder engagement with the assessments. Committee members suggested Facebook live panels, phone call-in options for online events, and one-page/snapshot summaries. Concerns regarding the efficacy of the Board’s website and policy infographics were also discussed.

**DISCUSSION OF 2022 ASSESSMENT TOPICS:**

Ms. Huerta reminded the committee of the 2021 carryover policy assessment on consumer-directed services in the CCC+ waiver and DD waivers. Ms Huerta sought feedback on two additional 2022 policy assessment topics: 1) school-to-prison pipeline and 2) information access.

Committee members engaged in discussion on possible stakeholders for each topic and the types of entities that may be appropriate for researching information access. Committee members also discussed potential limiting factors, including duplication with other state agency efforts underway and ongoing policy changes, including the Virginia Department of Education’s data system transformation. Mr. Eric Raff suggested including research on the lack of cultural/linguistic competency in information access, especially for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Mr. Dennis Findley made a **MOTION** to recommend the assessment topics to the full board. Ms. Maya Simmons **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

**PROJECT LIVING WELL UPDATE:**

Ms. Linh Nguyen provided an update on Project Living Well web page traffic, report download statistics, and report/comic development. There was a suggestion to promote the forthcoming comics via Facebook Live events.

**POLICY UPDATE:**

Ms. Huerta summarized Board comments on the Marcus Alert program and the federal Home and Community-Based Services Access bill. Ms. Huerta informed the committee on DD waiver regulation finalization. The Board also expects incoming funds from the federal American Rescue Plan and additional federal funds for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services.

Ms. Nia Harrison provided an update on workgroup participation, other policy activities, and Board recommendations on Covid-19 policies. Ms. Harrison initiated a discussion on Covid-19 vaccine access barriers and vaccine hesitancy. Committee members mentioned lack of data on people with disabilities, fear related to people’s ability to obtain needed accommodations at vaccination sites, and concerns that there are no extensive vaccine studies on people with disabilities. Ms. Parthy Dinora and Ms. Ann Bevan indicated possibilities of partnership to obtain relevant data. Some Board members also questioned how much room is left to improve the vaccination rate, given that most or all of the people who remain unvaccinated are likely unvaccinated by choice.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Ann Bevan made a **MOTION** to approve March 2021 meeting minutes, and Ms. Dawn Missory **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:18 PM.