**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***March 13, 2019***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Felicia Hamilton (Chair)

Philip Caldwell

Ann Bevan

Donna Gilles

Deanna Parker

Summer Sage

Maya Simmons

Eric Raff

Hank Millward

Mary McAdam

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Katherine Olson

Dawn Missory

Dennis Findley

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:**

John Cimino

Linh Thi Nguyen

**Guests:**

Morgan Sadauskas

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair, Ms. Felicia Hamilton, called the meeting to order at 9:19 am and asked committee members to introduce themselves. After introductions, the Committee Chair reviewed the agenda and introduced the December meeting minutes. Ms. Deanna Parker made a **MOTION** to approve the December meeting minutes. Mr. Phil Caldwell **SECONDED** the motion, and the **MOTION** carried.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:** The Chair provided an overview of the major topics discussed during the Executive Committee meeting, highlighting information shared during the Executive Committee meeting about Board funded grants and financial obligations.

**2019 ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATINOS:** Discussion of the Early Intervention and Community Living Assessment recommendations occupied the majority of the meeting. A number of amendments to the recommendations were made. There was significant discussion about the requirement of health insurance to cover Early Intervention services and the limitations of this requirement as it relates to self-insured employers. Employer self-insured plans are not subject to state insurance mandates, because federal law (ERISA) preempts state insurance regulation. This is a complicated issue and the Committee expressed an interest in hearing more about it from an expert in insurance law. Several minor modifications to the recommendations were discussed and approved by the Committee. These included highlighting the need to include deaf mentors and other professionals who support infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or vision impaired, or deaf-blind among Early Intervention professionals targeted in workforce enhancement efforts; and moving a recommendation that the Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia make the completion of a new data system a priority to be the first recommendation made in order to highlight its importance.

Ms. Donna Gilles made a **MOTION** to recommend the slate of recommendations as amended by the PRE committee to the full Board for adoption. This motion was **SECONDED** by Ms. Summer Sage and the **MOTION** carried.

**POLICY/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** The Committee agreed in the interest of time to delay the discussion of the legislative session until the full Board meeting. There was a discussion of reported reductions in hours for families that rely upon personal care hours through DD Waivers and avenues for individuals and families to address this. This topic will be revisited in future meetings. The Chair introduced the topic and reported that there is widespread reporting by families of experiencing these cuts. There was discussion about what course of action individuals should take if they are having their hours cut or not getting enough approved. Two issues were discussed: connecting families with advocacy groups in order to help advocate for their needs and for systemic responses; and pursuing administrative remedies through appeals and complaint processes. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) reported that they are evaluating data on service usage to identify any systemic issues. It was agreed that further discussion and research is needed in this area.

 **ADJOURN:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:39am.