**Virginia Board for with Disabilities**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

***March 14, 2018***

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities held its regular quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 4700 South Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Ann Bevan, Randy Burak, Phil Caldwell, Allison Coles-Johnson Dennis Findley, Melissa Gibson, Felicia Hamilton, Ray Hopkins, Jocelyn Kilgore, Jarl Jackson

John Kelly, Richard Kriner, Rachel Loughlin, Mary McAdam, Christopher Nace, Deanna Parker

Eric Raff, Cindy Rudy, Angela Sadsad, Summer Sage, Matthew Shapiro, Jamie Snead, Ed Turner

Frederique Vincent

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Curtis Andrews, Vicki Beatty, Theresa Casselman, John Eisenberg Ethel Paris-Gainer, Donna Gilles, Traci LaGanke, Donna Lockwood, Alexis Nichols, Atima Omara Caroline Raker, Maya Simmons, Alexis Smith, Travis Webb, Angela Yong-West

**LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:** Dr. Joseph Ashley, from the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) presented on Career Pathways for Students with Disabilities along with a Panel of guest speakers, Ms. Kate Kaegi, from DARS representing VA Manufacturers Assoc. Liaison, Ms. Vanessa Rastberger, the Director of Workforce Solutions (VMA), Ms. Paula Martin of the CPID Assistive Technology Specialist with the VA Assistive Technology System with DARS/VATS and Ms. Caseybeth Yelverton, a CPID Occupational Therapy Doctoral Intern.

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Board Chair, Ms. Mary McAdam, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Ms. McAdam welcomed the Board members and asked them to introduce themselves. New staff member Mr. Will Horner was introduced as well. She also thanked the luncheon speakers and reviewed the housekeeping notes.

**APPROVAL OF DEC. 6, 2017 MINUTES:** The Chair asked if there were any changes to the December Board Meeting minutes. None were noted. The Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE.** Mr. Randy Burak made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes and Ms. Cindy Rudy seconded. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE.** The Chair announced the appointment of the Nominations Committee, which will select the slate of officers and at large members to take office on July 1. The committee will be comprised of Mr. Phil Caldwell, Ms. Atima Omara, and Mr. Ed Turner.

**ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT PROIGRAM OVERVEW.** Co-Chairs from the four chapters of the Alumni Development Program presented to the Board on their activities over the past year, including their successes and challenges. Ways in which the Board could provide additional support were also noted.

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.** The Board Chair asked if there were any questions regarding the activities of report of the Executive Committee. There were none.

**REPORT OF THE POLICY, RESEACH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE:**

Ms. Summer Sage (Chair) gave the report from the PRE committee meeting:

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the December 2017 meeting were approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Chair summarized the Executive Committee discussions and the Committee discussed the

**POLICY ACTIVITIES UPDATE:** Mr.John Cimino, Deputy Director, provided a brief update on recent policy developments, and staff work. There was a good discussion about collaborative work by the Board with non-disability specific partners and coalitions.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE AND SELECTION OF 2019 ASSESSMENT TOPICS:** Mr. Cimino updated the Committee on the progress of the 2018 Assessments on Housing and Transportation, and the Committee discussed the remaining assessment topics.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full board the adoption of Early Intervention, Community Living Supports, and Institutional Supports as the assessment topics to be covered in FY 2019. This **MOTION** was made to the full Board. It did not require a second. The **MOTION** was discussed briefly by the full Board and it carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Summer Sage adjourned the meeting at 11:40

[For the full details, see the PRE Committee meeting minutes for March 14, 2018.](https://www.vaboard.org/boardmeetings.htm)

**REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT & STATE PLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Ms. Cindy Rudy reported that:

**REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Ms. Rudy discussed the difficulty in finding information on school crisis planning for students with disabilities. Members of the ISP committee suggested a Board luncheon presentation and/or grant projects could address the issue.

**GRANT EXPENDITURE UPDATE:** Mr. Jason Withers, Grants, Contracts, and Program Information Manager discussed grants and contract expenditures for six projects: 1) The Virginia NICU Early Intervention Collaborative through the Virginia Hospital Research & Education Foundation (VHREF). 2) The Development of Adult Curriculum on Critical Decision-Making Points for Students with Disabilities project through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). 3) The Improving Transportation Planning in Cities and Counties to Increase Access to Community-Based Healthcare through the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV). 4) The Increasing Access to Disability Resources in non-English Languages through The Arc of Northern Virginia. 5) The Improving Health and Wellness through Empowerment project with James Madison University and 6) The Communication & Health Advocacy Training project with Virginia Commonwealth University. These projects and expenditures were referenced in Attachment ISP 3-2.

**APPROVAL OF VHREF NO-COST EXTENSION REQUEST:** Mr. Withers updated the members, informing them that Board staff held a conference call with the Virginia Hospital Research and Education Foundation (VHREF) on December 5, 2017, to discuss progress with the Virginia NICU Early Intervention Collaborative project. At that time, VBPD staff expressed concerns about the grantee’s advisory group recommendation to not create a model hospital Early Intervention (EI) referral policy. This is a key intended purpose of the project in order to help standardize policies and practices across hospitals involved in the collaborative. Following discussions, VHREF agreed to create a model hospital protocol regarding EI referrals. To compensate for the changes requested by staff to the Board, allow enough time to collect evaluation data from the hospitals, and account for a key staff member being out on maternity leave, the grantee requested a no-cost extension until October 31, 2019.

The Board discussed the ISP Committee’s recommendation to approve the VHREF No-Cost Extension Request, with the condition that the grantee be requested to attend the June 2018 ISP Committee meeting and provide an in-person project update. After discussion, the Board Chair called for a vote of Approval on this recommendation made by the ISP Committee. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF REVISED EVENT SUPPORT PROCEDURES:** Mr. Withers updated the committee members, informing them that Board staff periodically review all procedural documentation to ensure fiscal and quality oversight of all of its grants and contracts, which includes conference and event support funding. In order to effectively meet its federal reporting requirements, it was determined that more specificity was required within the Conference and Event Support Procedures document, with respect to funding criteria. Board staff also updated the procedures for the application review and approval process, which now states that applications will be reviewed by one of the Board’s Standing Committees. This provides flexibility should committees or responsibilities change. In addition, ISP Committee members requested to change the word “promote” to “support,” in attachment BD 4-3 on the following line: “Conferences/events that do not promote community inclusion and integration for individuals with DD and other disabilities.” The revised procedures were referenced in attachments BD 4-1 through 4-4.

The Board discussed the ISP Committee’s recommendation to approve the revised event support procedures. After discussion, Ms. McAdam called for a vote of Approval on this recommendation made by the ISP Committee. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Ms. Rudy put forward a second recommendation to the full Board that Board not consider funding event support applications for conferences and events that occur outside of Virginia. Dialogue followed about whether or not the event procedures documentation be approved with this additional change. Mr. Dennis Findley requested to revisit the event support procedures document at the Board’s June 13, 2018 ISP committee meeting. It was agreed without a **MOTION** that further discussion would take place.

**DRAFT RFP RECOMMENDATIONS:** Mr. Withers discussed the proposed Draft 2018 *Creating Inclusive Communities* RFP with Board members, noting that several Areas of Emphasis (AOEs) had not been captured during the last solicitation period of the *Creating Inclusive Communities* *Phase II* RFP. The newly proposed RFP focuses on the areas of Employment, Inclusive Education and Housing. Mr. Withers also noted that the proposed RFP includes recommendations from the Board’s assessments of Virginia’s service delivery system, performed in 2017 and 2018 in the target areas.

The Board discussed the ISP Committee’s recommendation to release the *Creating Inclusive Communities RFP*. After discussion, Ms. McAdam called for a vote of Approval on this recommendation made by the ISP Committee. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

**2017-2021 STATE PLAN UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:** Ms. Nia Harrison discussed highlights of progress in the 1st Quarter of FFY 2018 towards meeting the goals and objectives in the 2017-2021 State Plan. The Board is on track to meet its overall goals, objectives, and activities in the State Plan. The Board has met nine of its 86 performance measures (10%) as of the first quarter of the second year, which began in October 2017.   
  
[For the full details, see the PRE Committee meeting minutes for March 14, 2018.](https://www.vaboard.org/boardmeetings.htm)

**REPORT OF THE ADVOCACY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Matthew Shapiro, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to approve the December 2017, committee meeting minutes as written. Ms. Jocelyn Kilgore made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes and Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** carried and the December minutes were approved.

Next, the Committee reviewed the two event support applications. The first event will be hosted by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to train stakeholders within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community on the Virginia legislative process. Mr. Eric Raff, as the representative of the Department, recused himself from the conversation. The application requested $2,200 in funding. After discussion, Ms. Coles-Johnson made a **MOTION** to forward committee approval the funding to the full Board, at the requested level. Ms. Jocelyn Kilgore **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was approved.

The Board Chair called for a voice vote to approve the Committee’s recommendation. Following recusal from Mr. Raff, the Board voted to **APPROVE** the **MOTION** and fund the request at $2,200.

The Committee Chair then discussed the second event support application from Your Sunshine for the Hidden Talents Shine Up Talent show. Ms. Lawyer reiterated to the committee that all event support applications must be applicable to the current Board State Plan Goals and Objectives. Following discussion of the event specifics and similar previous requests for funding, the Chair called for a **MOTION** to approve the funding at any level. No **MOTION** was made.

The Chair then moved to the Board’s Training Alumni Association guests. Representatives from each of the four regional chapters were on hand to explain the progress the chapters had made over the previous year and discuss the challenges the chapters had faced, along with potential solutions. Following the discussion, Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee, Director of Training Programs, presented the Revised Alumni Develop Program Work Plan for 2018. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee explained that as a result of the progress that had been made, as well as unforeseen challenges in forming the individual alumni chapters, Board staff were requesting revisions to the Alumni Program Work Plan, postponing the creation of the statewide organization for one year to allow further growth and development of the individual chapters. The new Work Plan calls for forming the statewide organization, as well as hosting the inaugural event, to take place in the Fall of 2019. Following discussion, the Chair called for a **MOTION** to approve the revised Work Plan and forward the matter to the full Board. Ms. Kilgore made a **MOTION** to approve and Ms. Frederique Vincent **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

The Board Chair called for a vote to **APPROVE** the Committee’s recommendation to accept the revised work plan. The Board voted unanimously to **APPROVE** the recommendation.

Following this, Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee updated the Committee on the progress being made in the Partners in Policymaking program as well as preparations for the Youth Leadership Academy. She reminded the Committee members that they are welcome to attend the PIP graduation ceremony on April 7 and stated that Board staff are optimistic about the Youth Leadership Academy application process, as a large number of applications had already been received well ahead of the deadline. She noted that for the first time, the Board will not have to extend the deadline.

The Committee Chair then asked Mr. Benjamin Jarvela, Communications Director, for his report on the Board’s communications activities. Mr. Jarvela provided details on the Board’s Black History Month and Developmental Disability Awareness Month social media campaigns, noted that the Annual Report Highlights had been released to the public, and updated the committee on the status of the 2018 Assessments on Housing and Transportation.

The Chair then called for any additional business. Hearing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

[For the full details, see the AOT Committee meeting minutes for March 14, 2018.](https://www.vaboard.org/boardmeetings.htm)

**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 the Blind and Vision Impaired**, Ray Hopkins, Commissioner

**Federal Updates.** The US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the federal cognizant agency for the Vocational Rehabilitation program, is presently operating without a presidentially appointed Commissioner. Given that the President has expressed his intentions to reduce the number of appointees in the Department of Education to 100 from 150, there are questions about the plans for the RSA Commissioner position. It is not unusual for it to take 18 months or longer for a new Commissioner to be named after a change in administrations.

Many organizations continue to question the RSA interpretation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provisions related to competitive integrated employment as implemented by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Organizations affiliated with the Ability One or Javitz, Wagoner, O’Day (JWOD) Act has taken their concerns to Congress. These groups believe that most jobs generated through the AbilityOne program should be considered as competitive integrated employment for Vocational Rehabilitation program purposes. Congressional action may be necessary to resolve the issue since there appears to be an inherent conflict between the basic premises on which the JWOD Act and the WIOA are established.

Just over one year ago, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Public Notice announcing that it would accept applications for certification to participate in the permanent National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also known as “iCanConnect.”   DBVI served as the entity administering the iCanConnect program in Virginia from January of 2016 through June of 2017. The Department chose not to apply to be the certified entity for this program in the Commonwealth under the permanent rules because it was determined that the resources to administer the program ongoing were beyond those available to be recovered through the program regulations. DBVI did agree to work with the Perkins School for the Blind which became the program administrator in Virginia on July 1, 2017. As a result of recent discussions with the Perkins School, DBVI is limiting its role in this program further. While the Department continues to engage in outreach and application processing for ICanConnect, it will not be involved in assessments, equipment procurement, equipment distribution and training. Since the agency purposely chose not to be responsible for purchasing and handling equipment, DBVI will not agree to change the once mutually accepted model to have the agency handle all aspects of the provision of equipment as the Perkins School has proposed. We have elected the alternative of being excluded from the service

delivery aspects of the program. DBVI will still help Virginians who are deafblind to learn about this program and to acquire accessible devices as appropriate.

**Budget Updates.** Federally funded programs are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution. As a result, the grants for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living for Older Individuals who are Blind programs have been awarded only a portion of the federal funds required to operate for the year. Hopefully, a solution for the remainder of the year will be in place by the expiration of the current CR on March 23.

**Legislative.** House Bill HB1061 passed both chambers of the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor. This bill removes language from the Code of Virginia that references “sheltered workshops” and “industrial schools” which the Department is authorized to operate. The agency sought removal of this language because it does not operate or support sheltered workshops. . It also clarifies the exemption of industry workers at Virginia Industries for the Blind (VIB) from the Commonwealth’s classified personnel system. The Department actively followed House Bill1522 and Senate Bill 905 which address commercialization of safety rest areas in the Commonwealth. As drafted, these bills would prohibit commercialization of rest areas in Virginia without permission of the General Assembly and reasserted the authority of DBVI and VDOT to carry out certain activities in relationship to rest areas. This bill is of significance to DBVI because there are legislative efforts at the federal level to allow commercial business operations in safety rest areas along interstate highways as part of a larger infrastructure funding effort. This has the potential to undermine the priority granted to agencies serving individuals who are blind to operate vending machines in safety rest areas. These bills passed and were endorsed by Governor Northam. They require a vote of the General Assembly to allow commercial operations in rest areas in the Commonwealth should federal law change to permit such activity.

**Department of Medical Assistance Services,** Ann Bevan, Designee

**New Leadership**

* Governor Ralph Northam was sworn in as Governor on January 13.
* New Secretary of Health and Human Services is Dr. Daniel Carey
* Deputy Secretaries Gena Berger & Marvin Figueroa; Assistant Secretary Jodi Manz
* New DMAS Director is Dr. Jennifer Lee

**2018 General Assembly Session**

* The 2018 General Assembly Session began on Wednesday, January 10th and is scheduled to conclude on March 10th.
* Medicaid services are among the most significant points of discussion between the Governor, the House and the Senate.
* There are significant differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget, especially as it relates to services for people with disabilities. The House budget includes Medicaid expansion, the Senate budget does not. The budget conference committee will have to hash out that and other differences.
* Several DD related bills presented themselves during session to include those that sought to allow training centers to remain open, require reports on various service statuses and attempts to deviate from federal regulation. Training center bills did not pass.

**HCBS Final Rule.** DMAS and DBHDS are continuing our work together to implement the Home and Community Based Settings regulation in our public DD system. DMAS staff continues to perform desk reviews of all new DMAS providers with new settings. If a review of the self-assessment and evidence submitted shows compliance, then DMAS issues a letter of certification, which the provider then uses to complete enrollment as a Medicaid provider. As these rules require a complete system shift, extensive work is being done between the Departments to ensure that actions occur successfully.

**DOJ Settlement.** DMAS continues to collaborate with DBHDS in implementing terms of the DOJ Settlement Agreement. The independent reviewer released his 11th report this past December 2017. It covers the progress towards compliance during the review periods from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. The reviewer cited improvements due to changes and updates to DMAS regulations and CMS waiver amendments. There was also significant improvement in residential options for those exiting the training centers. There continue to be a shortage of providers in rural areas, especially for those with intense medical and behavioral support needs. There continue to be significant concerns with the quality and case management components of the Agreement.

**Waiver Operations.** DMAS staffs are continuing work on the permanent proposed regulations for the DD waivers. Comments from the Office of the Attorney General are being incorporated in the regulations, in collaboration with DBHDS. Emergency regulations have been extended to August 2019. Additionally, the provider manual is being written to incorporate all with the most recent changes to the components of the new waivers into one manual and to include the most recent proposed regulation changes.

Three new services were going to be added to the DD waivers (that were delayed from the original waiver submissions): benefits planning, employment & community transportation, and community guide. CMS guidance has requested changes to these services originally submitted. Currently, the Peer Mentoring is moving to a separate service from the inclusion under the Community Guide service. CMS, also, wants to see a greater distinction between Community Guides and Case Management/Support Coordination.

After CMS approves these amendments, DMAS will begin work on the renewals for the FIS and BI waiver. The public comment period is open for those waivers currently. DMAS will update the CL waiver quality measures as well at a later date, most likely coinciding with the final new waiver slot numbers

**Electronic Visit Verification (EVV).** CMS has mandated the use of EVV beginning in 2019. DMAS has begun discussions with EVV vendors and is developing talking points, gather from other states on best practices in use of these systems, mandatory vs voluntary us, agency and/or consumer directed use. Information will be made available as the project proceeds. One clear message from other states is that the roll out of these systems takes significant time and that consumer directed is a more challenging roll out in that autonomy is critical and times are often directed by the consumer.

**Slots.** We are awaiting a final conference budget to know the final slot numbers. There were several budget amendments that added waiver slots, however it looks like none of these were passed and that the Governor’s original budget request for waiver slots currently stands. However, this could change in Conference. At a minimum, the required number in the Settlement Agreement was proposed and would be assumed to be approved.

**CCC+ .** CC Plus is fully implemented and operating statewide as of January 1, 2018. As of February 6, 2018, there are a total of 209,219 individuals enrolled statewide. CCC Plus includes Medicaid members who:

* Receive Medicare benefits and full Medicaid benefits (dual eligible), including members enrolled in Commonwealth Coordinated Care (CCC).
* Receive Medicaid long term services and supports (LTSS) in a facility or through one of the home and community-based (HCBS) waivers
* Excluded are the Community Living, the Family and Individual Support, and Building Independence waivers, known as the Developmental Disabilities (DD) waivers, will enroll for their non-waiver services only.
* At this time, their DD waiver services will continue to be covered through Medicaid fee-for-service.
* Are eligible in the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid coverage groups, including ABD individuals currently enrolled in the Medallion 3.0 program.

The EDCD and Technology Assisted Waivers were combined into the new CCC+ waiver. The CCC+ waiver offers all the services previously offered on the EDCD and Tech waivers, but now in one waiver managed by the MCO’s. For more information, visit [the CCC+ website](https://www.cccplusva.com/) or the DMAS website and click the “CCC Plus” link on the far right.

**disAbility Law Center of Virginia,** Melissa Gibson, Designee

**General Assembly.** Our work at the General Assembly has wrapped up now. We are monitoring the Governor’s review of bills as well as ongoing budget disagreements. You can read the most recent legislative highlights, and review previous posts, at dLCV.org.

**Corrections Information and Referral.** In 2017, dLCV developed an online information page on legal protections for individuals with disabilities in correctional settings. It’s now live. Please feel free to refer individuals to http://dlcv.org/correctional-settings/ for more information.

**Gala.** Please join us on Friday, April 13th at the Hippodrome Theater for dLCV’s 5th Annual Gala. Inspired by the historic venue, the gala will have a Roaring 20s theme, and we encourage period attire! For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Facebook Event page or online ticket purchase.

**Staff Recruitment.** dLCV is currently accepting applications for a full-time Program Support Assistant. This position will assist us in managing reports of abuse and neglect by reviewing, assessing and entering the reports into a database. Individuals with disabilities and/ with fluency in Spanish or ASL are encouraged to apply. We welcome your help getting the word out!

**Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services,** Richard Kriner, Designee

Jim Rothrock retired from DARS on January 2, 2018. He had been with DARS for 16 years and 4 Governors. Kathy Hayfield was appointed DARS Commissioner by Governor Northam in January

In FFY17 the VR program saw the following outcomes:

* 4,037 consumers became employed, the fourth consecutive year that DARS has reached or surpassed its 4,000 goal
* 99.7 percent of these individuals were competitively employed
* Median hourly wage was $9.50, a 50 cent increase over 2016; for adult clients, the hourly wage was $10
* Average hours worked per week was 28.6, up from 2016
* 28,892 clients received services
* 88.3 percent of clients were considered most significantly disabled
* The number of clients with autism increased 12.2 percent to 3,883
* 50.6 percent of clients served were students in transition
* $23.4 million was spent on client services, of that:
* 71 percent, or $15.7 million, was for supported employment and job coach training services (a 3.9 percent increase over 2016)
* The second highest category in expenditures was training, including college tuition, at $1.4 million

In the VR program all OOS categories remain closed since November 1, 2018. There are approximately 1500 people on the wait. Our goal is to start moving the Most Significant Disability (MSD) category (only) of the wait list in mid-April.

The Winchester office is now part of the Blue Ridge District and the Charlottesville Office is now part of the Rappahannock District. This was done to better align with its workforce partners.

Jessica Stehle is the new Pre-ETS Coordinator. Her role will be ensuring compliance with WIOA and services to students with disabilities.

CPID is hosting *Working with Students with Autism, Blindness and Low Vision* in Richmond. This training will focus on students and classroom techniques as well as tips to communicate effectively and translate curriculum to autistic, low vision or blind students.

**Pre-Employment Activities.** We are now serving students with disabilities through our 49 Pre-Employment Counselors.  This is a new and valuable service to school students to better prepare them for future employment or future VR services.

* Overall program goal: to provide students with disabilities an early start at job exploration and the information and experiences to make informed decisions about their futures in order to promote more successful transitions from school to adult life.
* We have 47 counselors with a specific focus on Pre-ETS
  + 23 are dedicated Pre-ETS counselors
  + 24 have dual caseloads (meaning they provide both Pre-ETS and VR services)
* We are finalizing the RFP to go out to ESOs soliciting partnership and collaboration to enhance and expand the provision of Pre-ETS to students with disabilities
* We have been in communication with the VA Association of Centers for Independent Living to explore how we can further our partnerships with the CILs for the provision of Pre-ETS
* We continue our strong partnership with WWRC.  WWRC is offering a new Pre-ETS-specific opportunity this summer where students will participate in job shadowing activities at the Center and spend the night
* New services are in the works, such as a group Pre-ETS WISA service

**Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) outcomes FY 2017:** Served 4,687 Virginians: AT Demonstrations; Short-Term Equipment Loans; AT Reuse; Training; and Information & Assistance. This represents a 25% increase in individuals served over FY16.

2,002 Virginians with limited resources received 2,699 pieces of gently used durable medical equipment (DME) valued at nearly $867,000.  This equipment was gifted to qualifying individuals through VATS’ DME Reuse Program, the FREE Foundation.  This represents a 36% increase in individuals served over FY16.

Served 179 DRS vocational rehabilitation clients in the DME Reuse Program.

In the fall of 2017, the DME reuse program provided 539 reused DME devices in response to disaster relief efforts in Texas, Florida, California, Mexico, and Puerto Rico with a value of $78,000.

Provided one-hundred and ten (110) high-impact assistive technology trainings across Virginia to 810 participants.

Provided 1,346 Virginians with Information & Assistance.  This represents a 215% increase in individuals served over FY16

**2018 DARS General Assembly Summary**

**Bills of Interest**

Employment

HB 916(Landes) and SB 560(Hanger) – Codifes the LTESS and EES programs. The bills place specific parameters around the programs. LTESS funds may be used only for MSD individuals by ESOs who provide group, sheltered, and community based supports. EES funds may only be used for SD and MSD individuals by ESOs who provide group and sheltered supports, and community based supports when the individual has transitioned from group or sheltered employment. The bills also require DARS to make referrals to these programs.

SB 652 (McPike) – The Secretary of Administration is to convene a workgroup of stakeholders to review and make recommendations regarding modifications to state procurement policies to incentivize competitive integrated employment of individuals with significant disabilities. Variety of stakeholders including state agencies, money committee staff, ESOs, etc.

**Senate Finance and House Appropriations Budget Amendments FY 19-20**

| **House Appropriations** | **FY 19- 20** |
| --- | --- |
| Workgroup on EES and LTESS Employment Services | Language |

| **Senate Finance** | **FY 19** | **FY 20** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Long-Term Employment Support Services | $ 250,000 GF | $ 250,000 GF |
| Brain Injury Case Management Services | $ 500,000 GF | $ 500,000 GF |
| Address Waiting Lists for Aging Services | $ 500,000 GF | $ 500,000 GF |
| Long-Term Care Ombudsman | $ 300,000 GF | $ 300,000 GF |
| Requirements for Employment Support Services Programs and  Workgroup Language Increase Auxiliary Grant Rate | $ 1,000,000 GF |  |

**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services,** Deanna Parker, Designee

**Waiver Waiting List/Slot Summary (as of 3/9/2018)**

| **Waiver Type** | **# of Individuals** |
| --- | --- |
| Community Living (CL) | 11302 |
| Family and Individual Supports (FIS) | 1762 |
| Building Independence (BI) | 360 |
| **Total** | **13424** |
| Priority 1 | 3167 |
| Priority 2 | 5408 |
| Priority 3 | 3927 |
| **Combined Waiting List (Total)** | **12502** |

**Training Center Census (3/12/2017)**

* CVTC 105
* SEVTC 72
* SWVTC 54
* **Total 231**

*\*5 projected discharges with an expected census of 226 by March 31, 2018.*

**DBHDS Independent Housing Outcomes Summary (As of February 28, 2018)**

* Baseline # of People in \*Target Population Living in their own home 343
* Number of People in \*Target Population Living in their \*own home 405
* **TOTAL # of People in \*Target Population Living in their \*own home 748**
* # of Rental Assistance Resources Set-Aside for the \*Target Population 513
* # of individuals in \*Application/Voucher Intake/Housing Search Process 39

**DD Waivers Update**

* The Regional Waiver Slot Assignment Committees (WSACs) have completed assignment of all 2018 Building Independence Waiver slots (60 slots).
* The OAG continues review of the final draft of the permanent regulations for the DD waivers and case management with internal review for final edits by DBHDS and DMAS subject matter experts.
* The FIS and BI waiver renewals are out for public comment. The public comment period ends on 3/19/18.
* DMAS just resubmitted waiver amendments to all three DD waivers to CMS to include the new services of Community Guide, Peer Mentoring and Employment/Community Transportation. The resubmissions Include responses, developed jointly by DMAS and DBHDS to questions about the amendments posed by CMS.
* DMAS and DBHDS are working together to review and validate provider responses to the self-assessment survey to determine compliance with the HCBS setting regulation.
* Public Comment on the DBHDS Emergency Licensing Regulations is due by 5pm March 16, 2018.

**March 2018 IFSP** **Updates**

FY 2018 IFSP Funding Awards are planned for release in March 2018. All FY 2018 funds will be issued via debit card. The total number of applications received was 3538 with 3049 approved. As of February 22, 2018, the total amount of IFSP funds requested was $3,473,021 with $2,993,527 approved for distribution. The IFSP State Council met in January 2018 with the next State Council Meeting scheduled on April 26, 2018 in Richmond. Each of the five IFSP Regional Councils continue to make progress on their locally defined work plans supporting the State IFSP Plan.

***\*Settlement Agreement Population****: (1) individuals currently residing at any of the Commonwealth’s training centers, (2) individuals who meet the criteria for the Developmental Disability Waivers (includes individuals who currently have BI, FIS or CL waivers), or (3) individuals who currently reside in a nursing home or ICF-IDD.* ***Own Home****- Non-provider owned or operated housing that is leased or owned by an individual in the target population.* ***Rental Assistance Set-aside****- This is rental assistance made available for individuals in the target population.* ***Application/Voucher Intake/Housing Search Process****- Individuals in the target population have been referred to a PHA and are completing a program application and submitting required documentation; 2) the individual has submitted an application and associated documents that are under review by the PHA determine program eligibility; 3) the individual has received rental assistance and is actively looking for housing.*

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:39 pm.