**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Policy, Research and Evaluation Meeting Minutes**

***March 14, 2018***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**:

Summer Sage (Chair)

Ann Bevan

Melissa Gibson

Angela Sadsad

Phillip Caldwell

Felicia Hamilton

Summer Sage

Deanna Parker

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Maya Simmons

Angela Yong-West

John Eisenberg

Donna Gilles

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT**: John Cimino (staff liaison)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair, Ms. Summer Sage called the committee to order at 9:15AM and announced the need to elect a Vice-Chair. At the last meeting, Mr. Phil Caldwell was elected Vice Chair for the meeting, because the current Chair was unable to attend, and the former Vice Chair has transferred to another committee. Ms. Melissa Gibson volunteered to fill the role. Mr. Caldwell made a **MOTION** to elect Ms. Gibson as Vice Chair. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Ms. Angela Sadsad. There was no further discussion, and the **MOTION** **PASSED** by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Chair introduced the minutes from the December 6, 2017 committee meeting. Ms. Ann Bevan noted that Ms. Teri Morgan’s name was misspelled in the minutes, and made a **MOTION** to adopt the minutes with the corrected spelling. Ms. Gibson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**, and it **PASSED** unanimously with no further discussion.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:** The Chair encouraged all committee members to read through the Executive Committee report. The Chair stressed the importance of understanding the broad picture of what the Board is engaged in and initiated discussion about what the Board could be doing other than what staff are currently engaged in, such as additional coalitions, partnerships, groups with which the Board’s staff could be engaging. The Chair pointed out that there are changes to alumni development plan, and urged committee members to review these. There have been more applicants for YLA this year than there have historically at this point in time. New Board seats will be open in July. PIP graduation is April 7th at Patrick Henry Building.

There was a discussion about the alumni program, and what the Board can do to help bolster the Staff’s efforts. The Chair raised the question of whether the Board staff was fully utilizing technology to get people in remote areas engaged. Ms. Bevan suggested ensuring that we were fully tapping potential community partners, such as community colleges to accomplish this.

**BOARD POLICY ACTIVITIES UPDATE:** Mr. John Cimino, Deputy Director, introduced the policy activities update for the 4th Quarter of 2017. The Chair mentioned the importance of Policy Committee members making connections between things that the Board staff are engaged in and groups or coalitions that the Board could be engaged in but are not.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Committee Staff updated the Committee on the status of the 2018 Assessments on Housing and Transportation, which are in the final editing process.

**2019 ASSESSMENT TOPICS:** Committee Staff discussed the remaining topics to be covered by the Board in the upcoming two years. These include Medicaid, Healthcare, Early Intervention, Community Living, and Institutional Supports. Staff stressed the difficulty of assessing Medicaid and Healthcare right now in light of the many recent changes to the Medicaid program, as well recommend to the full board the adoption ofEarly Intervention, Community Living, and Institutional Supports as the topics to be covered in the 2019 Disability Assessments in order to allow for an additional year of implementing recent changes to Virginia’s Medicaid program and to allow for current discussions in the General Assembly about the future of Medicaid in the Commonwealth to unfold. There was fruitful discussion about the issues that could be covered in each of the assessment topics. There was interest in discussing what constituted an institution, and whether to include discussion of settings with institutional qualities for the purposes of the Medicaid HCBS Settings rule. There was also interest in covering differences in community capacity between types of communities, such as rural versus urban.

After discussion, Mr. Caldwell made a **MOTION** to recommend to the full board the adoption Early Intervention, Community Living, and Institutional Supports as the assessment topics to be covered for Fiscal Year 2019. This **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Ms. Bevan, and it was **PASSED** by the committee unanimously.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Cimino provided an update on some of the major Bills of interest from the 2018 legislative session. There was a good discussion about the role of Board members in the legislative work of the Board. The development of a legislative priorities document for the 2019 legislative session was discussed, as well as ways that Board staff can better educate Board members about the work of Board staff during the legislative session and the challenges of doing this well.

**COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS:** The Committee expressed an interest in potential guest speakers in future meetings, including potentially education about the legislative process, including the LIS system and Lobbyist in a Box, and topical information about issues that affect people with disabilities, but in which the Board staff have not historically been engaged.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.