**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***March 15, 2017***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**:

Summer Sage (Chair)

Angela West

Melissa Gibson

Angela Sadsad

Ann Bevan

John Kelly

Deanna Parker

Alexis Nichols

John Eisenberg

Phillip Caldwell

Donna Gilles

Stephen Joseph

Felicia Hamilton

Curtis Andrew

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT**:

John Cimino (staff liaison)

**CALL TO ORDER/CONSENT AGENDA:** Ms. Summer Sage called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and introduced the consent agenda items. Ms. Angela Sadsad made a **MOTION** to approve the consent agenda items without discussion, and Ms. Melissa Gibson **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

**BOARD POLICY UPDATE:** Mr. John Cimino introduced the policy activities update for the First Quarter of FFY 2017. There was no discussion of these items.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Cimino introduced the draft Assessments of Employment and Education services. There was some discussion about the format of the assessments and about the sources of data contained in the assessments. Ms. Sage suggested that in the interest of time, rather than discussing each of the policy recommendations contained in the assessments, that committee members address any specific questions or issues that they have about specific recommendations. There was no discussion about Recommendations 1 through 3 in the Employment Assessment; but there was substantial discussion about Recommendation 4, which addresses sheltered employment and subminimum wages for people with disabilities. Mr. John Kelly suggested different language for recommendation 4A, which changes the focus from recommending a cessation of funding for sheltered employment to a focus on developing alternatives to sheltered employment; and changes the recommendation’s focus on “ending” new admissions to sheltered settings to “reducing” new admissions to sheltered settings. There was extensive discussion on this issue. Mr. Stephen Joseph made a **MOTION** to recommend an amendment the recommendation to the full Board containing the discussed language; and Ms. Sadsad **SECONDED** this motion. The motion passed by a vote of nine (9) to four (4). No further changes were suggested for the Employment Assessment. Ms. Deana Parker made a **MOTION** to recommend the approval of the draft Employment Assessment with amendment to the full Board, with final editorial authority granted to Board staff. Ms. Sadsad **SECONDED** the Motion. The **MOTION** passed with a nine (9) to four (4) vote.

The Education Assessment was introduced by Mr. Cimino. There was discussion on Recommendation 1B, and a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Phil Caldwell to add clarifying language to the recommendation without changing its substance. This motion was **SECONDED** by Ms. Parker, and it passed by unanimous vote. Another **MOTION** was made by Mr. Kelly and **SECONDED** by Ms. Gibson to add an additional recommendation numbered 2B, related to legislation limiting the use of exclusionary discipline in schools. This motion passed by unanimous consent.   
  
Mr. Kelly made a **MOTION** to revise each recommendation in both assessment briefs to begin with an action word. This motion was **SECONDED** by Ms. Sadsad, and it was approved by unanimous vote.   
  
Finally, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Phil Caldwell to recommend to the full board the adoption of the Education Assessment with recommended amendments as agreed to by the PRE Committee for final editing and publication by Board staff. This motion was **SECONDED** by Ms. Alexis Nichols; and it was approved by the committee by unanimous vote.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Due to time constraints the committee agreed to forego a discussion of the legislative update, which each of the committee members received in written form.

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