**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

**Policy, Research and Evaluation Meeting Minutes**

***March 16, 2016***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**: Angela West (Chair), Jessica Philips, Melissa Gibson, Angela Sadsad, Terry Smith, Summer Sage, John Kelly, Deanna Parker, Alexis Nichols, Curtis Andrews, Donna Gilles

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**  John Eisenberg, Felicia Hamilton

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

**CALL TO ORDER/REVIEW OF AGENDA:** Angela West, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

**REVIEW OF PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF COMMITTEE:** Angela West reviewed the purpose and function of the committee at 9:15 AM and invited discussion about how members see the committee moving forward. The committee discussed the Board Staff’s policy work and the role of the Board in providing guidance/feedback on that work. Committee members expressed interest in the Board taking a proactive approach to identifying policy issues and promoting those issues through White Papers, fact sheets, and collaborative work with other agencies and nonprofits. John Kelly stressed the importance of leveraging the talents of Board members to assist the work of the staff.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE:** At 9:20 AM Angela West summarized the Executive Committee’s discussions from earlier in the morning.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE:** John Cimino provided an update on significant legislation from the 2016 General Assembly session at 9:25 AM. Several Bills prompted discussion. There was discussion about a Bill that makes it a misdemeanor to misrepresent a dog as a service dog to gain entry into an establishment. There was some discussion about what the Americans with Disabilities Act says about service dogs and about how the law would work in practice. There was discussion about a Bill that establishes a right of people who are incapacitated to communicate and visit with persons of their choosing and the impact that the codification of this right could have on people with disabilities. Significant General Assembly Budget amendments were discussed as well, including budget amendments that delay the implementation of some new waiver services, increase the number of waiver slots, and limit the number of hours that Consumer Directed service providers can bill to 40 hours per week because of new Department of Labor overtime rules.

**UPDATE/DISCUSSION OF BOARD POLICY AND RESEARCH:** John Cimino reviewed the formal public comments made by the Board over the past quarter at 9:50 AM, as well as some of the liaison and coalition work of the Board. There was a brief discussion of current and emerging policy issues that the Board will be focusing on. Transition services for school age students were discussed and whether Board staff should invest time in developing policy materials in this area. Committee members discussed their personal experiences regarding transition services, and preparation of students with disabilities for college. Committee members expressed views that this is an important issue to address.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON FY 2017-2021 STATE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES RELATED TO PUBLIC POLICY FOCUS AREAS:**  John Cimino reviewed the comments that the Board received on the 2017-2021 state plan goals and objectives after final publication of the plan. There were only three comments, and none of the comments touched directly on the policy oriented aspects of the plan.

**REVIEW OF DRAFT FFY 2017-2021 IMPLEMENTATIONI ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PUBLIC POLICY:** John Cimino read the policy specific activities from the 2017-2021 state plan at 11:00 AM

**DISCUSS STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEE MEETING AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES:** Angela West summarized the discussion that the committee engaged in at the start of the meeting about the committee structure and about how committee members see the committee moving forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Angela West adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.