**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***Sept. 11, 2019***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Felicia Hamilton (Chair)

Summer Sage

Philip Caldwell

Ann Bevan

Donna Gilles

Deanna Parker

Dawn Missory

Eric Raff

Samantha Hollins

Dennis Findley

Sarah Kanz-Ciment

Colleen Miller

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT:**

John Cimino

Linh Thi Nguyen

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair, Felicia Hamilton, called the meeting to order at 9:17 AM and commenced introductions for the benefit of new members present. The Chair noted an error on the PRE Agenda for the day, which includes reference to a nonexistent attachment.

The Chair then introduced the minutes from the June meeting. There was no discussion, and no requested changes to those minutes. Deanna Parker Made a **MOTION** to approve the Committee minutes the June meeting. Ann Bevan **SECONDED** the motion and it was **APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

The Chair gave the Executive Committee update, including an update on the upcoming Partners in Policymaking session, and the fiscal report provided to the Executive Committee. The Chair highlighted the Board’s plan to increase grant spending to come into compliance with new federal guidance that will require the Board to spend down DD Act grant funds on a two year, rather than the historical three year cycle. The Chair also provided a summary of the grant update, including one grant that will be proposed to the full Board for an extension (the John Marshal University (JMU) grant). The Chair also discussed the Executive Committee recommendations for Board committee restructuring. John Cimino, Deputy Director, provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to the committee responsibilities proposed by the Executive Committee. Proposed changes for the PRE committee are mostly technical in nature, but some of the changes proposed for other committees will result in changes to the committee’s core responsibilities. There were no questions or discussion from committee members.

**BOARD POLICY UPDATE:**

Mr. Cimino summarized significant policy work and policy issues from the past Quarter, including public comment on the 14(c) program through the Department of Labor hosted Online Discussion portal, and Staff attendance at key liaison activities. There was significant discussion about the 14(c) program, including the arguments for and against continuation of the program. The Board has recommended both in its employment assessment and through other public comment opportunities for the phasing out of subminimum wages in the Commonwealth, and this position was reiterated in its comment on the 14(c) online discussion forum. There was also significant discussion about the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Stakeholder meeting, including discussion about the circumstances in which individuals may request a reassessment or appeal an assessment, and whether the SIS assessment adequately captures individuals’ support needs.

**PROJECT LIVING WELL:**

Ms. Linh Thi Ngueyn, Policy Analyst, provided an update on the progress of the Board’s work on the Project Living Well, particularly its efforts to create an online trend report that addresses the key services and programs that serve people with developmental disabilities.

**HEALTHCARE AND MEDICAID ASSESSMENTS:**

Mr. Cimino discussed progress on the Healthcare and Medicaid assessments and invited discussion about issues that Committee members would like covered in these. A review of the literature that addresses health equity, healthcare access, and health and Medicaid managed care. Major issues that were identified as topics that committee members would like explore in the assessment include: Accessibility of healthcare services and healthcare providers to individuals with developmental disabilities; provider shortages in specific provider specialties and geographic areas of the Commonwealth; the availability of specific healthcare services, including dental; Health and healthcare literacy among people with disabilities, their families and providers, and throughout the system of supports; and managed care organization’s’ role in ensuring adequate networks of providers and specialized services, as well as in ensuring healthcare literacy within the system; and eligibility rules that that exclude people from eligibility for essential services based on income and assets, which have the effect of discouraging employment for some individuals.

**COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND GUEST SPEAKERS:**

No feedback provided this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.