**Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

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

***Sept. 12, 2018***

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**:

Felicia Hamilton (Chair)

Ann Bevan

Colleen Miller

Donna Gilles

Dennis Findley

Deanna Parker

Katherine Olson

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Phillip Caldwell

John Eisenberg

Eric Raff

Summer Sage

Maya Simmons

**VBPD STAFF PRESENT**:

John Cimino

Linh Thi Nguyen

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair, Ms. Felicia Hamilton, called the meeting to order at 9:18.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:** The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair and explained the role. There were no volunteers from committee members present, and multiple committee members were not present due to inclement weather and other factors. For these reasons, the committee agreed by consensus to table the election of a vice chair until the December Board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Chair called the committee’s attention to the Minutes from the June 2018 meeting. There was no discussion. Ms. Ann Bevan made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes. Katherine Olson **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTION** carried with seven members voting in favor and one abstention.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Chair summarized the Executive Committee discussions, highlighting recent policy developments and policy work that the Board staff have been involved in. The Chair also summarized discussions about ongoing fiscal challenges and the Board budget update; training and alumni program developments; and board investment opportunities, including three grant proposals that will be presented to the Board at the full Board meeting, as well as a possible opportunity to provide funding for the incorporation of disability specific elements into school safety and emergency preparedness trainings.

**BOARD POLICY UPDATE:** Mr.John Cimino, Deputy Director, provided an update on recent policy developments, and staff work, including formal public comments made during this state plan period, and the outcomes of those comments. The Board has made fourteen formal public comments since October 1, 2016. Recommendations in two of these comments have been implemented. Steps have been taken towards implementation of recommendations in two others. The recommendations in four of them were not implemented. And it is too soon to determine whether the recommendations in six of these comments will be implemented or not. Committee staff also provided an update on opportunities that staff have had to speak to external groups about its policy assessments and priorities. These speaking opportunities allow the Board’s staff to educate policy makers, and other entities about matters that the Board has taken policy positions on. Significant developments that have occurred through staff liaison activities were also discussed, including progress in developing employment services provider competencies, proposed provider manual changes from the Community Engagement Advisory Council, and progress of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS)/VDOE Private Day Educational Outcomes Workgroup.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE/STRUCTURE:** Mr. Cimino updated the Committee on progress of development of Early Intervention, Community Living, and Institutions policy assessments. There was discussion about the Community Living Assessment in particular. Topics to be covered within the Community Living Assessment include state guardianship laws and the collateral consequences of guardianship, supported decision making, the disability services professional workforce crisis and its effects on the ability of people with disabilities, and service animals and access to assistive technology and other home based supports. Topics discussed for the Early Intervention Assessment include funding levels for the system, regional disparities in access to assessment and services, and potential use of assistive technology to increase access. For the Institutions Assessment, topics discussed include unnecessary placement in psychiatric facilities and nursing homes for individuals with developmental disabilities, out of state placements in institutional settings, barriers to discharge from institutional settings.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** Committee staff also introduced the legislative priorities list for SFY 2019. This list summarizes the priorities identified in previously published Assessments and other Board policy positions that may become relevant during the upcoming legislative session.

**COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/FUTURE MEETINGS:** Committee expressed an interest in inviting Ms. Catherine Hancock to brief the Committee on the Early Intervention system.

**ADJOURN:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.