



Virginia Board for **People with Disabilities**

2017-2021 State Plan Goals, Objectives
Submitted August 15, 2016

Executive Summary

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) serves as the Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities (DD) Planning Council and as the Governor's Advisory Council on issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Under the federal law, each state is authorized to establish a DD Council, which receives funds to carry out initiatives for systems-change, capacity-building, and advocacy. Through these activities, the Board seeks to impact the independence, productivity, inclusion, and integration of people with disabilities in their communities.

The Board's activities are organized in a five-year State Plan which serves as a framework for the Board's funding initiatives, staff work priorities, and Board member activities. The state plan was developed through Board and stakeholder input, which included focus groups and a survey of people with DD, their families, advocacy organizations and state agencies to assess how well Virginia is doing in supporting children and their families to lead the lives they want with the support they need. The Board was also informed by the findings and recommendations contained in its 2014 Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia.

This draft has been reviewed, debated and approved by the Board and it also was released for a 45 day public comment period during the winter of 2016. Consistent with federal law, it will be reviewed annually, and achievement of stated goals and objectives are reported in December of each year for the previous federal fiscal year. In June, the Board approved the 5 Year State Plan for submission to the federal Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for approval. The approved plan will be effective October 1, 2016.

Mission and Vision

The Board's State Plan defines how the organization will continue to implement its mission and vision over the next five years.

Mission: To create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Vision: Virginians with developmental and other disabilities direct their own lives and choose how they live, learn, work, and play.

State Plan Goals

The Board's goals for the 2017-2021 State Plan are:

1. Reform the Commonwealth's approach to disability services and supports into a coordinated and effective system so that people with developmental and other disabilities and their families have access to high quality, individualized supports and are able to exercise maximum self-determination.
2. At least 250 individuals with developmental and other disabilities, and their families, advocate for themselves and others, influence policy and exercise maximum choice, independence, and control in their lives.

Areas of Emphasis

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act identifies nine “Areas of Emphasis” that DD Councils are to address in their state plans according to the needs of the state, input from individuals with disabilities, and the status of service delivery systems. The Board develops goals and objectives that it believes best address its priorities, taking into account limited fiscal and staff resources and based on its research, monitoring, grant, liaison and other activities. The nine areas of emphasis are:

Child Care
Education/Early Intervention
Employment
Health
Housing
Recreation
Quality Assurance
Transportation
Formal/Informal Community Supports

Goal 1. Reform the Commonwealth’s approach to disability services and supports into a coordinated and effective system so that people with developmental and other disabilities and their families have access to high quality, individualized supports and are able to exercise maximum self-determination.

Area of Emphasis: Housing

Objective 1-1: By 2021, the Board will support initiatives that will increase knowledge and awareness among 250 individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families, and increase access to integrated, accessible, and affordable housing options in community settings.

Strategies/Activities:

- 1.1.1 Fund a grant to increase access and awareness of community based housing options.
- 1.1.2 Advocate for improved access to integrated, affordable housing and disseminate information to stakeholders.
- 1.1.3 Develop recommendations for systems improvements and disseminate findings.
- 1.1.4 Support strategies to clarify code compliance and promote universal design and visitability.

Desired Impact: An increased number of individuals with DD and other disabilities will live in accessible, affordable housing in the community.

Area of Emphasis: Transportation

Objective 1-2: By 2021, the Board will support initiatives in one or more areas of Virginia that improve local and regional public and other transportation planning efforts in order to address all types of mobility needs for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Strategies/Activities:

- 1.2.1 Improve transportation planning by researching and analyzing local plans, mobilizing advocates and potentially funding a grant.

1.2.2 Develop recommendations for systems improvement, advocate for changes and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

Desired Impact: People with disabilities will have better, more reliable access to community services, supports and activities.

Area of Emphasis: Healthcare

By 2021, the Board will support three or more initiatives to increase awareness among state and local stakeholders of community-based healthcare models and best practices that use a person-centered, integrated approach for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Strategies/Activities:

1.3.1 Advocate for improved community based models, policies and programs to improve access to quality care.

1.3.2 Develop recommendations for systems improvement and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

1.3.3 Support the development of a disability dashboard to improve the availability of data to communities for planning, program selection and evaluation.

Desired Impact: Health care outcomes and consumer satisfaction is improved for people with DD and the delivery system is more coordinated and person-centered.

Area of Emphasis: Early Intervention/Education

By 2021, the Board will support 2 or more initiatives that seek to increase the number of students with developmental and other disabilities in K-12 education who are enrolled in higher education programs or engaged in integrated, competitive employment one year post graduation, beyond the current reported rate of 40 percent.

Strategies/Activities:

1.4.1 Advocate within K-12 system for best practices and systems improvement statewide.

1.4.2 Advocate to community college system to expand higher education and competitive employment opportunities.

1.4.3 Fund grant to improve information to families on diploma options to maximize higher education enrollment and post-graduation employment.

1.4.4 Develop recommendations for systems improvement and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

Desired Impact: More students with disabilities enroll in in higher education and are competitively employed after exiting K-12 system.

Area of Emphasis: Early Intervention/Education

Objective 1-5: By 2021, at least 200 individuals with developmental or other disabilities and their families for whom English is a second language have increased access to culturally and linguistically appropriate translations of information and resources that will improve their knowledge and use of community-based supports and disability rights.

Strategies/Activities:

1.5.1 Support one or more projects or grants to improve culturally and linguistically appropriate translations of information and resources to individuals and families with limited English proficiency.

1.5.2 Develop recommendations for early intervention systems improvement and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

Desired Impact: The early intervention system better meets the needs of people with DD, including families with limited English proficiency.

Area of Emphasis: Formal/Informal Community Supports

Objective 1-6: By 2021, the Board will support improved community infrastructure, services, and supports, including paid and unpaid supports for individuals with developmental and other disabilities living in the community or transitioning from institutions to the community.

Strategies/Activities:

1.6.1 Advocate for improvements to community infrastructure to include services and supports by monitoring and taking positions on laws, policies, practices, and/or budget actions.

1.6.2 Improve referrals to Early Intervention services for children that spent time in the NICU.

Desired Impact: Individuals with developmental and other disabilities have access to high quality, individual supports and community resources and are empowered to exercise maximum self-determination across the life span.

Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance

Objective 1-7: By 2021, working in collaboration with its DD Network Partners, the Board will support at least 3 policies or initiatives that safeguard individuals with developmental and other disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Strategies/Activities:

1.7.1 Advocate and build capacity for policies to safeguard against abuse, neglect and exploitation.

1.7.2 Review ICF-ID Certification reports and research if additional QA is needed.

1.7.3 Collaborate with DLCV on Community Monitoring Project.

1.7.4 Monitor grant with UCEDD to improve prevention efforts through trainings against abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Desired Impact: Individuals and families have access to high quality prevention programs within a strong system of services and supports to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Area of Emphasis: Formal/ Informal Community Supports

Objective 1-8: By 2021, the Board will support the development of the Virginia ABLÉ Account program by helping Va529 to develop and disseminate reliable, user-friendly information to 1,000 Virginians with developmental and other disabilities and their families in order increase their knowledge of the program and facilitate enrollment in ABLÉ accounts.

Strategies/Activities:

1.8.1 Engage in the rulemaking process by participating in meetings, public comment and making recommendations to ensure VA 529 develops user-friendly, accessible information.

1.8.2 Support and promote VA 529 through information dissemination.

Desired Impact: Individuals with developmental and other disabilities are better able to plan for their financial future and pay for disability related expenses.

Area of Emphasis: Employment

Objective 1-9: By 2021, the Board will promote at least 5 public policies, budget actions, and practices that incentivize and support integrated and competitive employment in both the public and private sectors in order to increase employment opportunities for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Strategies/Activities:

1.9.1 Advocate for Employment First policies by monitoring and taking positions on laws, policies, practices, and/or budget actions.

1.9.2 Develop recommendations for systems improvement and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

1.9.3 Fund a potential grant to encourage systems change for employment first policies, programs and initiatives.

Desired Impact: Year over year increases for individuals with DD in integrated competitive employment.

Goal 2. At least 250 individuals with developmental and other disabilities, and their families, advocate for themselves and others, influence policy and exercise maximum choice, independence, and control in their lives.

Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance

Objective 2-1: By 2021, at least 100 self-advocates will be actively engaged in public policy advocacy, participating on policy and cross disability advisory boards and coalitions and engaged with their fellow training program alumni as a result of Board training and alumni initiatives.

Strategies/Activities:

- 2.1.1 Establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization led by individuals with DD.
- 2.1.2 Conduct a Youth Leadership Training Program in 2018 and 2020.
- 2.1.3 Conduct Partners in Policymaking training in 2017 and 2019.
- 2.1.4 Implement the Alumni Development Plan to engage Alumni of training programs in Board activities and grassroots advocacy.

Desired Impact: Self-advocates have an increased voice in the public policy arena and are better able to influence policies.

Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance

Objective 2.2: By 2021, increase by 25 percent the number of self-advocates who serve as trainers in the Board’s advocacy and leadership development training programs and promote opportunities for them to provide leadership training within other organizations.

Strategies/Activities:

- 2.2.1 Identify self-advocates interested in training and review current training materials.
- 2.2.2 Research and implement training opportunities.
- 2.2.5 Use self-advocates in Board training programs, track their competencies and develop a plan to increase referrals to other programs.

Desired Impact: Leadership training is improved because self-advocates are reflecting on their experience and are highly trained.

Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance

Objective 2-3: At least 150 family members will be actively engaged in public policy advocacy, participating on policy and advisory boards and engaged with their fellow training program alumni as a result of Board training and alumni initiatives.

Strategies/Activities:

- 2.3.1 Conduct Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training in 2017 and 2019.
- 2.3.2 Implement the Alumni Development Plan to engage Alumni of training programs in Board activities and grassroots advocacy.

Desired Impact: Family members have an increased voice in the public policy arena and are better able to influence policies.