

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA)

Disabilities Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting

Southside Virginia Training Center, Petersburg, VA

******* Draft Minutes *******

December 2, 2011

Members Present Barbara Barrett, Steven Hornstein, Marvette Humphrey, Melissa Meade, Arva Priola, Mary Jane Sufficool, Linda VanAken

Members Absent James Alexander III, Lisa Ritchie

Guests Present Rita Kidd (VOPA Board Member)

Staff Present Sherry Confer (Deputy Director), Mickie Chapman (Administrative Assistant)

For portions: Colleen Miller (Executive Director)

Call to Order Sherry Confer called the meeting to order and introduced William (Bill) Hawkins, Southside Virginia Training Center Director.

Training Bill Hawkins, Director of the Southside Virginia Training Center (SVTC), gave an overview of the services provided by SVTC and information about the needs of some of the residents. He led a tour (bus and walking) of the campus and workshop facilities.

Working Lunch Colleen Miller, Executive Director, delivered highlights from the Litigation Report and the Progress on Objectives Report. Barbara Barrett made a motion that VOPA coordinate national protection and advocacy network to acquire the death reports from the regional Medicare and Medicaid Offices they are required to provide. Mary Jane Sufficool seconded the motion. Colleen noted the public comment opportunity for the mental retardation/intellectual disability (MR/ID) Waiver regulations. She noted that VOPA was signing on to the Medicaid Waivers Network comments as well as submitting our own comments. Concerning people with traumatic brain injury and veterans, many programs were mentioned including Wounded Warriors, the Mary Sue Buckley organization, horse therapy and the VFW that may be resources for VOPA to contact veterans who need advocacy. There was some discussion about the state budget implications for disability related services. Colleen will let the Council know when budget hearings will be held. Other discussion included ADA accessibility surveys and a related training may be a future activity for the Council.

**Greetings from
Governing Board**

Rita Kidd provided a summary of the October 1 Governing Board meeting and updated the Council about the retreat discussion.

**Community-based
Services**

Debbie Smith of the Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) presented the My Life- New Life video (available on the DBHDS site). She provided a handout regarding Medicaid Waiver services and answered questions.

**Board Committee
Reports**

Linda VanAken gave the Finance Committee report. Representative payee contract funds are not tied to a grant and are considered to be discretionary. The Board is developing standards for its usage and monitoring for internal control.

The Public Awareness and Goals Committee met and forwarded the annual goals, focus areas and objectives to the Board for their consideration. Sherry distributed the Board-approved FY2012 objectives.

Mary Jane Sufficool gave the Resource Development report. The State Corporation Commission approved the 501(c)(3) status for "The Fund". They are working on a fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000 by December 2012. There was discussion about whether VOPA itself may transition to a non-profit as discussed at the Board retreat. Sherry Confer explained that the Governing Board is approaching this with deliberateness and caution. They want to be sure they understand the opportunities as well as the challenges that may arise. As one initial step the Board has asked Colleen Miller to survey VOPA staff about transitioning from a state agency to a non-profit. In response to a question, Sherry noted that fewer than 10 states have state agency P&A's and there are many details to consider if moving to a nonprofit status.

Other Business

The DAC Annual Report to the Board will be distributed to the members by email before January 2012 Board meeting for feedback and edits.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 at the VOPA office.

Membership Update by Sherry Confer

Valerie Luther is a provisional member and she couldn't attend today.

Lisa Ritchie sent holiday wishes to the Council and apologies for missing today's meeting.

Shirley McInnis has resigned her position on the Council as she noted she may at our last meeting..

Mary Jane Sufficool and Linda VanAken's terms end in 2012. They will consider whether they want to be reappointed.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by Linda VanAken.

DRAFT MINUTES

December 2, 2011

Date

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

Mission Statement

Through zealous and effective advocacy and legal representation, to: protect and advance legal, human, and civil rights of persons with disabilities; combat and prevent abuse, neglect, and discrimination; and promote independence, choice, and self determination by persons with disabilities.