

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA)

**Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)
Advisory Council Meeting**

Richmond, VA

******* DRAFT MINUTES *******

December 10, 2011

- Members Present:** Elaine H. Caudill, Van Johnson, Michael Newcomb, Yvette Lane, Ali Parker, Deborah Dudack-May
For a portion: Byron Stith
- Members Absent:** Jackie Brown, Sandra Musselwhite, Sara Singhas
- Guests Present:** Martha Pillow (VOPA board member), Steven Dawe, Robin Jordan, Bonnie Neighbour
- Staff Present:** Sherry Confer (Deputy Director), Mickie Chapman (Administrative Assistant)
For portions: Colleen Miller (Executive Director), Becky Currin (Disability Rights Advocate)
- Call to Order:** Michael Newcomb called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
- Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
- Review of Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.
- Training:** Becky Currin presented on forensic mental health issues in the jails and mental health institutions "pipeline". The presentation was interactive with council members asking many questions
- Director's Report:** Colleen Miller began the Executive Director's report by clarifying that the packet materials addressing non-profit related topics were two different issues the Governing Board is working on. At the Board retreat, there was discussion of VOPA remaining a state agency or converting to a 501(c)(3), a non-profit organization. The second project is the non-profit organization the Governing Board has already created called Virginia Disability Law and Advocacy Fund, or "The Fund." Colleen explained a three phase fund raising plan for The Fund: 1) recruiting a board (two members to date) and developing a solicitation drive, 2) developing resource manual or tool for attorneys, parents and individuals, and 3) producing training for parents and attorneys to develop a better informed state bar. Council appreciated Colleen responding to their questions.

There was some discussion on the format of progress on objectives report. Different formats will be tried for future reports.

Working Lunch:

Colleen continued the Executive Director's report during lunch. She elaborated on and updated the following items:

- Communication with the Inspector General about using restraints when administering medication
- An EEOC case for woman who is deaf.
- VOPA v. Stewart case for internal investigative records ("peer review")
- Questions about the usage of medications.

There was much discussion about legal rights, safety, protection, and consent.

Greetings from the Governing Board:

Martha Pillow discussed the highlights of the VOPA Board retreat. They discussed the pros and cons of VOPA becoming a 501(c)(3) including public perception and employee benefits.

Committee Reports:

Elaine Caudill had no Internal Policy Committee report as she could not attend the last committee meeting.

Ali Parker stated that all the expenses were on track and the Finance Committee is meeting in January to work on the accounting manual.

Mike Newcomb distributed the 2012 goals and objectives as the Public Awareness and Goals Committee report.

Sherry Confer reported for Sandra Musselwhite that the Resource Development Committee's activities were addressed in Colleen's report.

Annual Report:

Sherry distributed the PAIMI Council's draft annual report (Council had received an earlier draft by email) and reviewed each section. Changes were made as needed to complete the report. Any additional changes from Council members are to be sent to Sherry by Wednesday, December 14. The report is due to the federal funding agency by the end of December.

Other Business:

Deborah Dudack-May is a now full member of the Council. There was some discussion and questions about membership, federal category representation and attendance. Sherry will send the Council members the data that is kept about the Council membership.

The next PAIMI meeting will be on April 14 from 10 a.m - 3 p.m. at the VOPA office.

Mike reminded everyone to turn in their travel vouchers.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m. by Michael Newcomb.

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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.