

**PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI)
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Final Minutes
February 15, 2007**

- Members Present:** Lisa Ritchie - Vice Chair, CW Tillman – Secretary, Jackie Brown, Chris Harrison, Ward Marstiller, Byron Stith
- Members Absent:** Lisa DuVal, Irene Rebholz – Chair
- Guests Present:** Susan Kalanges (VOPA Board)
- Staff Present:** Sherry Confer, Colleen Miller, Lisa Shehi
Clyde Mathews, Steven Traubert (for portions)
- Call to Order/
Welcome/Introductions:** Lisa Ritchie, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Ritchie welcomed members and staff.
- Public Comment:** There were no members of the public present and no public comment was offered.
- Governing Board
Update:** Susan Kalanges, Vice Chair of the VOPA Governing Board, shared that the Board met on January 30, 2007. Don Lemond, Executive Director of the Division of Risk Management (DRM), discussed DRM’s role regarding providing liability coverage for the Board. Ms. Kalanges noted that VOPA Executive Director Colleen Miller had been working extensively at the General Assembly on bills affecting the rights of individuals with mental illness as well as a bill regarding the lottery and accessibility of lottery retailers. Ms. Kalanges also shared that financial reports were shared by Dr. William Fuller, Chair of the Finance Committee. Ms. Kalanges stated that the Goals and Public Awareness Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Priaulx, discussed the development of the biennial Goals, Focus Areas, and Objectives. The Board formalized several Board policies and new policies presented for consideration at the April Board meeting. Ms. Confer explained the concerns regarding HB2632 and the potential impact on individuals with disabilities.
- Employment Clinic:** Steven Traubert, VOPA Staff Attorney, presented on Employment Rights for People Living with Non-Obvious Disabilities and provided an update on the activities of the Employment Clinic. Mr. Traubert is currently providing semi-monthly presentations at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville with 30-50 residents in attendance. Mr. Traubert also shared that he will begin making

presentations at the Department of Rehabilitative Services Job Clubs the week of February 19.

**November 2006
Minutes:**

Ms. Ritchie requested that Council members review the November 16, 2006 minutes and provide any comments or corrections. After discussion, Byron Stith made a Motion to accept the minutes with changes as discussed. CW Tillman SECONDED the MOTION and it passed with unanimous approval.

**Executive Director
Update:**

Ms. Miller referred to the Progress on Objectives, Litigation, and Financial Reports which were provided in the Council packet and solicited Council discussion and comments.

Lunch

During a working lunch, Colleen Miller presented Chris Harrison a plaque in appreciation and recognition to his service to the PAIMI Council.

**Governing Board
Committee Reports:**

Chris Harrison, representing the Internal Policy Committee, noted that the Board approved several operating policies at the January meeting including Office Closings/Inclement Weather, Standards of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity, Layoff, and Information Technology. Additional policies were presented to the Board for consideration and possible adoption at the April Board meeting. Sherry Confer, VOPA Policy Director, expressed congratulations to the Council for providing feedback and suggestions to the Internal Policy Committee and shared that the Councils had been instrumental in the initiation of a policy on Public Awareness.

Ward Marstiller shared that the Finance Committee has made progress regarding formalization of accounting policies and procedures. All the recommendations made by the auditors in the 2006 audit are being implemented.

In Irene Rebholz's absence, Ms. Confer explained that the Public Policy Committee addresses any request that comes from any person or entity requesting that VOPA make a public policy statement. Ms. Confer further noted that VOPA could possibly be limited in response to these requests due to federal funding requirements and legal implications.

Ms. Ritchie, Council representative to the Goals and Public Awareness Committee, shared that the Committee met on January 29, 2007 and developed a calendar for the development of Goals, Focus Areas, and Objectives for Fiscal Years 2008-2009. She noted that VOPA will use an internet survey tool to solicit feedback, but also that focus groups would be held. Ms. Ritchie stressed that each

Council member take the initiative to educate the public that the survey exists.

FY2008-2009 Goals:

Clyde Mathews, VOPA Managing Attorney, asked the Council to consider goals for VOPA's work either through continuance of the current fiscal year goals or by other ideas.

The Council expressed a need to continue each of the current goal areas to include:

- Abuse and neglect
- Employment
- Community integration
- Education
- Equal access to government services
- Health care
- Outreach

The Council again expressed that the Mental Health community needs to increase its awareness of VOPA and their disability-related rights.

Discussion and brainstorming continued with the Council recommending community resources that VOPA should invite to focus groups.

Other Business:

Ms. Ritchie addressed the subject of Membership on the PAIMI Council, asking PAIMI Council members to circulate the word of what PAIMI involves and when the Council meets in an effort to bolster membership. Ms. Confer offered to provide members with a packet to use as a source of information when discussing the Council.

Discussion continued regarding membership initiatives including possibilities for funding or reimbursement of expenses for potential members as well as those who have been appointed. Ms. Confer explained that three potential members had declined invitations to attend this PAIMI Council meeting due to travel complications.

Other Business:

Ms. Ritchie reminded Council members to complete their travel vouchers and turn in to Lisa Shehi.

The Council discussed possible locations for the next PAIMI Council meeting. Lisa Shehi will research various locations and provide information to Ms. Confer.

Ms. Confer thanked the PAIMI Council for prompt response to her e-mail regarding the Joint council training. The training has been

scheduled for April 17, 2007 and will be held in Richmond.

There being no further business, CW Tillman made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Chris Harrison SECONDED the MOTION and the meeting was adjourned with unanimous approval.

FINAL MINUTES

Date