

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 2, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carrasco, (Chair) Joyce Knight, Christy Bishop, Brian Clukey, John Eisenberg for Doug Cox, Fred Orelove, Ron Lanier, and John Toscano

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristina Sherman

VBPD STAFF PRESENT: Katherine Lawson, Erin Hickey, Kara White, Tom Driscoll

VACANCY: Norma Draper

CALL TO ORDER: The Education Committee was called to order by the Chair, Michael Carrasco, at 8:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: Mr. Carrasco asked for the Committee to review the Minutes of the Committee's September 9, 2009 meeting and requested any corrections. There were no changes recommended. Fred Orelove MOVED for approval, John Toscano SECONDED and it was APPROVED unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Mr. Carrasco reviewed the meeting held December 1, 2009 and highlighted the grant review process. He emphasized the amount of work associated with the LOI and proposal review and how if someone volunteers to serve on the GRT, that all LOIs and Proposals will have to be reviewed, ranked, and written submissions received by the agency prior to discussion. The Grant Review Team will make committee assignments which will also determine who will lead discussion of the proposals during the Grant Review Team meetings.

REVIEW OF LIASION ACTIVITIES: Ms. Lawson asked if there were any questions on the liaison activities for this quarter. Ms. Lawson reviewed some activities during the quarter that were related to the state plan. As the three grants which rest with this Committee began October 1, 2009 and the first quarterly performance reports will be submitted to the agency in mid January 2010.

Ms. Lawson indicated that the Committee had three grants in effect, the Phillips grant and the SeniorNavigator grant. There is another grant which is in the area of self advocacy intending

to form an independent organization of self advocates which will speak for themselves which rests with the Partnership for People with Disabilities. A thorough description of each initiative is in the Education and Outreach portion of the Board Packet. Ms. Lawson stated that the state plan had noted an education grant projected for the fifth year of the state plan, but with the Phillips grant in effect in the area of transition in education, this satisfies the state plan objective. In respect to the initiative in the area of self advocacy development and the establishment of a 501.C.3, John Toscano voiced his concern regarding the establishment of the 501.C.3. He expressed his concern that there are many non profits that exist and establishing another organization does not make sense with so many already incorporated in Virginia. He explained how this can make scarce dollars more difficult to obtain for all non profits.

SPONSORED PROGRAMS UPDATES:

Sponsored Programs Assistant, Erin Hickey, provided a report of the current PIP class and noted that three classes have been completed to date. The diversity of the current class was discussed. The committee entered into an exchange about the program and how their involvement during the program was very beneficial. The Partners in Policy (PIP) Making Program remains strong with the original 28 individuals still active. Ms. Hickey reflected upon several PIP projects including helping nurses improving physical accessibility, and integrating the history of disability into already existing curriculum in public schools. Ms Hickey reminded the Board to save the date for the April 10, 2010 for Capital Day in order for Board members to examine their 2010 schedules and plan to attend the testimony which will be given in the Capitol building rather than the General Assembly as has been typical in years past.

Sponsored Programs Assistant, Kara White, provided an update for the Youth Leadership Forum. She reminded the Committee of the planning year for amending the content of this program and some of the activities which have taken place. Ms. White reviewed the notification process of suspension of the program for 2010 to use the year for a planning period. She explained that YLF Alumni have been invited to participate in the evaluation process and to be actively engaged in program development. Sub groups have meetings planned for February, 2010.

PRESENTATION OF FINAL RESULTS OF SELF ADVOCACY MOBILIZATION GRANT

Dana Yarbrough then presented the final outcomes of the SAM grant. She provided an overview of activities of the last two years and referenced earlier grants, New Voices I and New Voices II, as well as the current grant which intends to form a state wide organization of self advocates. She explained experiential learning activities of the grant and how individuals were empowered to speak on a local and state wide level about public policy issues of concern to them. She indicated that all of the materials from this initiative as well as many other projects of PPD were posted at <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/>.

REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES:

Mr. Driscoll briefly reviewed the Outreach & Marketing activities report for the past quarter. Additions to the report since its distribution included distribution of Board materials at the 11/09/09 Virginia Beach SEAC Resource Fair, additional NEWS@VBPD & VSEN e-digest distributions on 11/09/09 & 11/10/09, and posting & distribution of the October Voices & Visions quarterly newsletter. Restrictions on printing & mailing continue, limiting the distribution of the newsletter to website posting and subsequent NEWS@VBPD announcement. The impact of which was noticeable in responses to Board's annual Consumer Satisfaction & Stakeholder Feedback Survey. V&V's dual cover stories on Fair Housing issues and rights have subsequently been posted to the new listing of housing information and resources on the Community Integration, "Olmstead", website and widely distributed to state and local housing officials across the Commonwealth.

This past summer's serious problems with blockage of the Board's electronic communications, which had largely been resolved by late September, have begun to reoccur. Message tests have shown that Internet Service Providers are still continuing to block messages from state e-mail accounts, both the Board's "generic" e-mail addresses and staff members' e-mail addresses, or to let them through but "flag" them as possible "spam". The Board does not always receive notifications of these blockages and continues to receive numerous requests from individuals already on its contact lists to be added to those lists because those individuals are not currently receiving Board communications. Arrangements have been made with VITA/NGC, the state's IT agency, to monitor the next round of NEWS@VBPD releases in an attempt to determine the cause of the resurgence of blockages and fix it.

Release of the newsletter was delayed somewhat due to the July retirement of the Board's graphic designer, Karen Lindley, but Mr. Driscoll recognized Board Sr. Program Support Technician Kelly Bolden both for how quickly she learning how to use the Quark layout software and for an excellent job of composing the newsletter. Posting of the pdf' version on the Board's website was only a few days late, and posting of the accessible WORD 'doc' version has now been completed as well.

The Board has also been in contact with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office regarding the Governor's Complete Count Committee. Partners in Policymaking alumni, both self- and family advocates, with strong outreach connections who are willing to serve as representatives of the "disability community have been provided, as has contact information for disability service, support, and advocacy organizations who can help to ensure that Virginians with disabilities are fully counted in the 2010 U.S. Census. In return, the Board has received contact information for the current members of the Complete Count Committee, a "who's who" of key contacts for Virginia's diverse ethnic and cultural communities. This information should greatly improve the Board's ability to reach out to these communities, especially during next year's Triennial Assessment public comment opportunities.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Carrasco called for any additional business, and there were two additional items to discuss. First, recruitment of individuals for the Grant Review Team took

place. Christy Bishop volunteered and Michael Carrasco also volunteered. Joyce Knight offered to be the back up if a conflict arose with any proposals. The second item was a request from the Virginia Guardianship Association for \$3,000.00 sponsorship of the April 2010 Guardianship, Elder Rights and Disability Services Conference. There was a MOTION by Michael Carrasco to approve the request and recommend the Board fund the request, SECONDED by Joyce Knight.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Fred Orelove MOVED for adjournment, which was SECONDED by John Toscano and APPROVED unanimously, and the Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.