



VOICES & VISIONS

A VOICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ❖ A PROMISING VISION FOR TOMORROW

Governor and General Assembly Offer Budget Proposals

In December 2010, Governor McDonnell introduced his Budget proposal. On February 6, the House and Senate proposed their amendments to the Governor's budget. The House and Senate leadership will appoint a Budget conference committee to resolve differences in their proposed budgets. The final budget is scheduled to be announced on February 24 and voted on by the House and Senate on February 26. The Governor will then have the opportunity to review the budget and determine if he will suggest further amendments. On April 6, the Senate and House will return for the reconvened/veto sessions on April 6 where a final vote on the budget will take place. The final budget will be available online on the Legislative Information System and on the Department of Planning.

Virginia operates on a two year budget cycle and the Commonwealth is required under the state Constitution to have a balanced budget. The Governor's proposed budget and the amendments proposed by the House and the Senate will affect all citizens – including individuals with disabilities – through a variety of spending initiatives and reductions. Controlling spending growth was a key theme in the proposals. Items in the Governor's budget for which the General Assembly has not offered amendments remain as proposed.

For the full text of the **Governor's budget presentation** to the General Assembly last December, go to <http://tinyurl.com/govbud1>

To view the Governor's proposed budget as well as the House and Senate subcommittee reports, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/govbud3> or <http://tinyurl.com/govbud4>

To view all of the individual budget amendments, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/govbud5>

Key proposals affecting individuals with developmental and other disabilities from the Governor's

proposed budget are below, followed by proposed amendments to the Governor's proposed budget made by the House and Senate subcommittees. **By the time you receive this newsletter, the General Assembly may (or may not) have concluded its budget negotiations and voted on a final budget.**

Highlights of Governor's Introduced Budget (related to people with disabilities)

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

- ◆ Creates **crisis intervention services** across Virginia for individuals with co-occurring intellectual disability and behavioral disorders to help prevent escalation of crisis situations and avoid admission to training centers, psychiatric hospitals or incarceration, and allow individuals to stay safely in their own communities. (\$5 million)
- ◆ Expands **behavioral health crisis stabilization programs** statewide to help reduce hospitalization, divert people from incarceration and achieve better outcomes for people served. (\$4 million)
- ◆ Increases **targeted community behavioral health services** in the Tidewater/Eastern State Hospital region, including: Sponsored Placements, Local Inpatient Purchase of Service (LIPOS), Expanded Discharge Assistance Program, and Stabilization and Competency Restoration in Community Hospitals. (\$2.4 million)
- ◆ Adds **six licensing positions** at DBHDS to increase the capacity to monitor community-based providers of services to individuals with behavioral health or developmental disabilities. (\$514,641)
- ◆ Adds **five discharge planning positions** at DBHDS to work with residents of the state training centers and their families to plan

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PPR Highlights *(continued from page 4)*

run by self-advocates. Additionally, the Board monitored four grants whose activities continued following the end of the grant period.

Through contracts and partnerships with other agencies, the Board continued to support and actively plan state conferences to ensure inclusion of disability issues. The Board also continued to support the "EasyLiving Home" program that promoted universal design and visitability in housing for people with disabilities. The Board

conducted two sponsored programs: the Youth Leadership Forum, which used 2010 to update and modernize the program; and Partners in Policymaking, which trained adults with disabilities and/or family members in advocacy.

Once the 2010 PPR is approved by ADD, approximately March 2011, the report will be posted on the Board's website under **State Plan & Reports** at www.vaboard.org.

Meetings & Events of Interest

Board of Medical Assistance Services

03/08/2011, 10:00am

Contact: 804-786-8096 or

mamie.white@dmas.virginia.gov

10th Annual Commonwealth Autism Service

Conference: Autism – A Step in the Right Direction

03/08-09/2011, 8:00am

Contact: 804-892-2356 or www.autismva.org

Opening Doors: Communities, Partnerships, Opportunities

A Conference for the Brain Injury Community

03/12/2011, 7:30am

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia

Contact: 804-355-5748 or www.biav.net

State Rehabilitation Council Transition Forum

03/14-16/2011, 10:30am

Sheraton Waterside Norfolk

Contact: 804-662-7010 or

barbara.tyson@drs.virginia.gov

Meeting of the Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired

04/12/2011, 1:00pm

DBVI Administrative Headquarters

Contact: 800-622-2155 or 804- 371-3140

State Special Education Advisory Committee

04/14-15/2011

Contact: 804-225-3252

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy: PAIMI

04/16/2011

Contact: 800-552-3962 or

lisa.shehi@vopa.virginia.gov

Virginia Brain Injury Council Meeting

04/27/2011, 1:00pm

Contact: Kristie L. Chamberlain at 804-662-7000

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board Meeting

05/04/2011

Contact: 804-662-9502 or www.vddhh.org

State Rehabilitation Council

05/09/2011, 10:30am

DRS Central Office

Contact: 804-662-7010 or

barbara.tyson@drs.virginia.gov

Area Planning and Services Committee for Aging and Disabilities Conference

06/06/2011

Koger Inn South Richmond

Contact: eansello@vcu.edu

For more meetings & events visit our website at www.vaboard.org/meetings.htm



The Youth Leadership Forum is Back! Now Recruiting Student Delegates for YLF 2011

Kara White, Sponsored Programs Assistant

After a year of assessment and planning, the Virginia Youth Leadership Forum is excited to bring to YLF 2011 improved, up-to-date, and modernized leadership activities to engage and empower today's youth. Recruitment for this summer's YLF has begun. A pool of young leaders from high schools across the state will compete for only 25 invitations to the forum.

Students, submit your application to YLF by the March 31 deadline!

The 2011 YLF will take place July 18-22, 2011, at **Virginia Commonwealth University** in Richmond. Invited delegates will formulate career and life goals, develop leadership abilities, enhance social skills, make new friends, and gain a wealth of knowledge and experience from peers and guest speakers.

Selection to participate in YLF is an honor and privilege. Delegates must be motivated, accept and have an interest in diversity, want to develop their leadership skills and plan for their futures, and desire to share their thoughts and opinions.

If you are a student with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act who resides in Virginia, and you are a rising junior or senior or enrolled in a non-graded program and returning to high school for a least one more year after the 2011-2012 term, and you have demonstrated leadership in your school and community, **it is time to apply!**

If you are a parent, teacher, administrator, counselor, or anyone else who works with young people, the Board needs your help to make sure that all eligible students learn about this fantastic opportunity and decide if they would like to apply. Share this information. Post it on a bulletin board or website. Reprint it in a newsletter. **Spread the word!**

YLF Alumnus Spotlight



Mary McAdam, a 2004 alumnus and returning staffer, was elected to the Association of Youth Leadership Forums' Executive Committee. Mary will represent Virginia in one of two Youth Representative positions.

Mary does not hesitate to step into leadership roles or take a step back to allow others to have similar opportunities. Congratulations, Mary, on your appointment to AYLF!

Have you seen the YLF Video?



Use this link to watch on YouTube
<http://tinyurl.com/yfvid>

To be considered, completed applications and all other required information must be received by 5pm, March 31, 2011.

For applications, instructions, and additional information visit www.vaboard.org, e-mail Kara.White@vbpd.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-846-4464 (toll-free, voice & TTY).

Electronic submission of applications is strongly encouraged.

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technology services provided under Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver Services. Funding is restored effective October 1, 2010. (\$625,306 GF; like amount NGF)

- ◆ Provides \$65.8 million GF and \$62.2 million from federal Medicaid matching funds to **restore funding for providers of Medicaid services**. This is a complex amendment. See Item 297 #8 for specific details on cuts addressed and providers included.
- ◆ Restores \$21.2 million GF and \$21.2 million from federal Medicaid matching funds to **restore the number of hours of respite care** that can be provided to the caregiver of a waiver recipient from 240 to 720 hours per year. The introduced budget includes a reduction in the hours of respite care that can be provided from 720 to 240 hours beginning July 1, 2011. This amendment provides full funding to restore respite care services to individuals on Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs.
- ◆ Adds **funding** and modifies language in the introduced budget that would have reduced the reimbursement rates for **therapeutic day treatment services** provided to children by four percent effective July 1, 2011. The amendment provides \$1.1 million GF and \$1.1 million from federal Medicaid matching funds to reduce the reduction to two percent.

Department of Rehabilitative Services

- ◆ Adds \$194,931 GF the second year to **restore funding for brain injury services** that was reduced in Chapter 874 of the 2010 Virginia Acts of Assembly.
- ◆ Adds \$192,372 (GF) the second year from the general fund to **restore funding for Long Term Employment Support Services (LTSS)**. The introduced budget included reductions in the first and second year. This amendment only restores the second year reduction.
- ◆ Adds \$106,328 GF the second year to **restore funding for the Extended Employment Services (EES) program**. The introduced budget reduced funding for the program by \$71,201 the first year and \$106,328 the second year. This amendment restores funding in the second year only.
- ◆ Adds \$388,279 GF the second year for Long-term Rehabilitation Case Management Services. Of this appropriation, \$188,279 will

be used to **restore long-term rehabilitation case management services** and \$200,000 will be used to expand services provided through Didlake, an organization that provides vocational services for people with physical disabilities.

- ◆ Provides \$466,866 GF to **restore funding to the Centers for Independent Living** that was reduced in Chapter 874 of the 2010 Virginia Acts of Assembly. Of this appropriation, \$116,866 is GF and \$350,000 is from an additional NGF appropriation for indirect cost recoveries that is included in the introduced budget. A separate amendment to Item 322 removes an appropriation of \$350,000 for administrative cost.

Office of Comprehensive Services

- ◆ Restores **\$5 million (GF) to provide services to children not mandated by law** to receive CSA services who are not eligible for Medicaid funded mental health rehabilitation services, including youth involved with community services boards and/or juvenile justice system.
- ◆ Modifies language and provides \$7.5 million (GF) the second year from the general fund to **reverse the action in the introduced budget which would reclassify therapeutic foster care services** provided through the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) as a residential service (resulting in an increase in the match rate for localities).

Benchmarks: Guiding Principles for Policymakers

This brochure, developed by the Board in 2010, informs readers about strategic investments in community supports and infrastructure. With planning and proper supports, people with disabilities have increased independence, educational achievement, economic self-sufficiency, and community engagement.

To receive your free copy, contact the Board at 804.786.0016 or email info@vbpd.virginia.gov



