



connection

The Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities Council

General Assembly Concludes: Variety of Bills Affect Individuals with Disabilities

[The information below is not comprehensive or all inclusive of all of the actions taken that may affect individuals with disabilities, families, and providers. See links at the end to view legislation and budget actions.]

SB 1062/SB 2467 creates a limited mandate for **health insurance coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**. Health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations are required to provide coverage for the diagnosis of ASD and treatment for children with ASD between the ages of two and six. Coverage of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy is subject to an annual maximum benefit of \$35,000 and must be provided by an individual who has received certification from the Virginia Board of Medicine. Preauthorization and independent review of treatment plans will also be required. The mandate applies to state employee health insurance plans and to the local choice health program but does **not** apply to individual or small group policies, contracts, or plans. If the costs associated with coverage exceed one percent of premiums charged over the experience period for an insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization, or to government employee programs, the mandate will not apply.



SB 1269 creates the **Autism Advisory Council** in the legislative branch of state government to promote coordination of services and resources among agencies involved in the delivery of services to Virginians with ASDs and is charged to increase public awareness of such services and resources. The Council will expire on July 1, 2014.

HB 1514 clarifies that the **Virginia Disability Commission** shall serve as the primary legislative forum in the Commonwealth where the needs of and issues affecting people with physical and sensory disabilities are identified and addressed. The Commission will serve as the primary body for coordinating proposals and receiving, reviewing, and responding to proposals and recommendations of all commissions and agencies for legislation or budget actions concerning persons with physical and sensory disabilities. The Commission must report its recommendations for legislative, policy and budget priorities to the General Assembly and Governor by October 1 of each year.

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From the Chair

By Christy Crowther

Soon the Board will publish its 2011 Assessment, which examines critical issues facing Virginians with disabilities. It includes our recommendations for facilitating broad-based systems change, and provides resources for policymakers and interested readers.

Each year, policymakers and advocates compete to influence difficult budget decisions, and this year was no exception. Advocates hoped to improve the current system or maintain it at best; legislators were confronted with the realities of an ongoing recession and shrinking revenue. Disability services agencies and their partners will need to continue doing more with less, sometimes at the expense of valuable services.

Board recommendations are intended to be strategic and intentional rather than reactive. In 2008 and 2006, the Board's Assessment was clear: monies spent on rebuilding institutions are not helping people move out of institutions.

That same year, the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) began investigating the Central Virginia Training Center. In February 2011, DOJ issued its findings regarding the Commonwealth's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court decision in the Olmstead case in 1999.

DOJ findings allege that Virginia is violating ADA requirements ranging from deficiencies in efforts to discharge individuals from training centers to failing in having the appropriate level of community resources and supports.



Although plans are set to add monies for additional waiver slots (and eventually to transition people out of Virginia's five state-run institutions), the Board's stance concerning individuals with developmental disabilities remains the same: people need to be in community settings, not segregated.

Take time to review the key findings of the 2011 Assessment. Concerns remain regarding access to health-care and insurance for people with disabilities, the importance of emphasizing the value of community-based supports and services versus institutionalized care, the need for adequate transition planning so that gainful employment is both a goal and an option for Virginians with disabilities, improved transportation services, and eliminating barriers to accessible and affordable housing.

As we reflect on how far we have come and how far we have to go, it is important to remember that change takes place one step at a time. The Board will continue to focus its advocacy efforts with the intent of taking the service delivery system from its current state to the future—where individuals with disabilities and their family members would like it to be. We are appreciative of the extensive collaboration from our state agency partners and valuable feedback provided through consumers' public comment. ■

Our Special Harbor Sprayground Grand Opening on May 21

By Lynne Talley

In October 2010, the Virginia Board awarded the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund (JPMF) \$250,000 to assist with building an accessible sprayground in southeastern Fairfax County, located at the Lee District RECenter (6601 Telegraph Rd., Franconia, Virginia 22310). JPMF has raised matching funds of \$570,000 (to date) from private sources, as well as \$2.5 million from Fairfax County, VA.

In addition to support before and during the grant period, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) will take over the operation and maintenance of the **Our Special Harbor** Sprayground after completion. As a committed partner, FCPA has donated the land, built parking lots, provided electrical and water infrastructure and constructed accessible individual and family bathrooms, a pump house, and a tree house. JPMF designed and built the sprayground which features a skipjack, crab boat, sea serpent, water maze and interactive fountains. JPMF collaborated with an ADA professional to ensure the barrier-free sprayground design follows the best practices of the ADA.

Our Special Harbor Sprayground is designed to be a place that families of children with and without disabilities can visit for safe and fun water activity. The grand opening for the sprayground will be on Saturday, May 21, 2011. The sprayground will operate free of charge to individuals. ■



Welcome to Council Connection

VBPB recently held a contest to “Name the Newsletter.” Publicized via news@VBPB and on www.vaBoard.org, readers were invited to submit name ideas from March 7-20, 2011.

A five-person panel (consisting of Board Chair Christy Crowther, Executive Director Heidi Lawyer, Grants Manager Lynne Talley, Executive Assistant Sandra Smalls, and Marketing/Strategic Planning Manager Barb Dodd) met to discuss the 50 suggestions received.

All the entries were alphabetized and distributed to the panel, which met twice.

The new name of VBPB’s newsletter, Council Connection, is the result. As always, we love to hear from our readers—and thanks goes to Katherine Lawson, Community Outreach & Program Manager, who submitted an idea using the word “Connect.”

Together, we connect people—with and without disabilities—with policymakers, processes, and potential change to impact the Developmental Disabilities system. Thank YOU to all readers who submitted suggestions to aid us in creating Council Connection!

Newsletter design and template provided by the Office of Graphic Communications, Virginia Department of General Services.

General Assembly

Continued from page 1

HB 1790 clarifies that discharge from a state operated Training Center requires consent of the individual. If he or she lacks capacity to consent, the consent of the parent, guardian or legally authorized representative is required, following disclosure of information regarding the actual availability and accessibility of services sufficient to meet the needs of the consumer in the community. This bill requires reenactment by the 2012 General Assembly to become effective.

HB 2076 establishes the **Office of the State Inspector General** to investigate complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or corruption by a state agency or nonstate agency or the officers and employees thereof. The bill authorizes the State Inspector General to examine the management and operation of state agencies. Among other provisions, the bill consolidates the offices of inspector general of the Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Corrections, Juvenile Justice, and Transportation and the Dept. of the State Internal Auditor.

HB 2170 prohibits the Workers' Compensation Commission from awarding attorney's fees incurred in opposing a claimant's admission to the **Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program**. It also prohibits the award of attorney's fees and expenses incurred by any physician, hospital, or nurse midwife that is a party to a proceeding regarding admission to the NIC Program, or their medical malpractice carrier, in a proceeding involving a birth-related neurological injury claim.

HB 2553/SB 1486 requires that the **Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Trust Fund** be used for financing community-based services. Services provided through the Medicaid Intellectual Disability (ID) Home and Community-Based Waiver program (for the purpose of transitioning individuals with intellectual disabilities from state Training Centers to community-based care) are included. The bill also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to submit semi-annual reports to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance.

HJ 648 requests the Dept. of Housing and Community Development, in cooperation with the Dept. of Rehabilitative Services, to study the feasibility and appropriateness of amendments to the **Uniform Statewide**



Building Code to provide accessible routes for persons with disabilities into public and private buildings and facilities and promote universal features in dwelling units. The Departments must submit their joint findings and recommendations to the 2013 Session of the General Assembly.

Budget Highlights

Key proposed budget actions items affecting individuals with developmental and other disabilities as included in the Governor's introduced budget were described in the January 2011 issue of this newsletter.

The items below reflect amendments to the Governor's budget by the General Assembly, including final actions by the General Assembly on the Governor's proposed amendments to the budget during the reconvened session.

Item 295 1c provides federal appropriation for the Medicaid **electronic health records (EHR) incentive program**. Eligible professionals and hospitals receive 100 percent federal funding through incentive payments to assist in adopting EHR technology. Eligible providers may receive incentive payments for up to six years. The Dept. of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) will administer the program and the first payments are expected in state FY 2012. Over the six-year period, an estimated \$250 million in federal funds is available for Virginia providers to adopt EHR technology.

Item 297 4c requires Dept. of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and the Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to examine ways to **improve or develop Medicaid waivers** for individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities to strengthen services, enable more individuals to be served,

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and increase efficiency and cost effectiveness to allow more individuals to remain in the community setting of their choice.

Item 297 8c, as amended, **caps personal care services in the Elderly and Disabled with Consumer Direction (EDCD)** and HIV waiver programs at 56 hrs./wk., 52 wks./yr., for a total of 2,920 hrs./yr. The cap is not applied to personal care hours provided through the ID, DD or Technology Assisted Waivers. The amendment originally included the Children's Mental Health Demonstration and Alzheimer's waiver which do not provide personal care services. The legislature accepted the Governor's clarification amendment. DMAS must provide for individual exceptions to this limit (using criteria based on dependency) in activities of daily living, level of care, and taking into account the risk of institutionalization if additional hours are not provided. Emergency regulations will be promulgated to implement these changes.

Item 297 11c provides \$625,306 from the general fund and \$625,306 from federal Medicaid matching funds to **restore funding for environmental modifications and assistive technology** for home and community-based waiver recipients. It also removes language that reduced the limits on environmental modifications and assistive technology from \$5,000 per project to \$3,000 per project.

Item 297 12c. This amendment restores \$14.4 million from the general fund and \$14.4 million from federal Medicaid matching funds for the **rates paid to providers of home and community-based waiver services.** The introduced budget included a reduction of five percent effective July 1, 2011. This amendment restored funding to reduce the planned reduction from five to one percent.

Item 297 14c restores \$13.4 million from the general fund and \$13.4 million from the non-general fund to **restore the number of hours of respite care** provided under the Virginia's Home-and Community-Based waivers from 240 to 480 hours per year. The introduced budget included a reduction in the hours of respite care from 720 to 240 hours beginning July 1, 2011. A Governor's amendment, accepted by the General Assembly, clarified that respite hours under the Technology Assisted Waiver will remain at its original level of 360 hours.

Item 297 16C provides funding to add 150 new DD waiver slots for individuals to reduce the current waiting list (approximately 1,080 individuals) by 14 percent. No new DD waiver slots have been added since 2007.

Item 297 21c replaces language included in the introduced budget related to the development and implementation of **care coordination services in Medicaid.** It further defines what is meant by quality of care as it relates to care coordination. The amendment delays the expansion of Medallion II (i.e., Medicaid managed care) to the Roanoke/Alleghany area by six months and to southwest Virginia by 12 months to provide additional time for networks to be developed. Budget language is modified related to care coordination for individuals in need of behavioral health services, requiring development of a blueprint for behavioral health services in consultation with stakeholders.

Item 274 1c restores \$5.0 million from the general fund the second year for services provided through the **Comprehensive Services Act for non-mandated children.**

Item 305 3c provides \$30,000,000 from the general fund to be deposited into the **Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Trust Fund.** Funds must be used to provide a broad array of community-based services, including but not limited to, ID waiver slots to transition individuals from state Training Centers, pursuant to HB 2533/SB 1486.)



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Attention Adaptive Van Owners—Are you getting tired of being “parked” in?

By Steve Fetrow

If you have a van with a lift, odds are that it has happened on more than one occasion. You leave the grocery store with a bag full of frozen food or during a heavy rain storm, darting through the parking lot toward your van...only to find that some inconsiderate or oblivious driver has parked their vehicle so close to the passenger side of your van that you're essentially stuck. Outside your own vehicle!

In these situations you're often left waiting for the “offender” to eventually show up to move their car or search for some good Samaritan willing to move your vehicle into another spot so that you can access the lift.

In some cases, the cross-hatched areas between parking spaces are either non-existent or not of the proper ADA required width. Other drivers may not realize how much room you need to use the lift. Your best bet is to do what you can to avoid the situation in the first place.

One idea is to place a magnetic sign on the passenger front door asking for the courtesy of other motorists to please not park within 8 ft. of your vehicle. The front door location positions the sign so that there is a better chance the other driver will actually see it when they exit their vehicle. These magnetic signs can be purchased online or from The Graphic Garage at 804-389-2479.

Another “homemade” option requires three things: 1) an old tennis ball 2) an 8-10 foot length of rope and 3) an orange soccer cone (looks like a miniature parking cone), often found at retailers in the sporting goods department.

Drill a hole completely through the tennis ball and another through a bottom portion of the cone. Push one end of the rope through the hole in the cone and tie a knot. Push the other end of the rope completely through both sides of the tennis ball and tie a knot.

Once you have parked and exited the vehicle, carefully place the “Tennis ball end” in either the side door opening (using care so that the ball and/or rope do not obstruct the lift or door operation) or place it inside the passenger front door. Stretch out the rope to the proper length and set the cone upright. With your door locked, the tennis ball inside will make it a bit more difficult for someone to tamper with it. When returning, just remember to remove the cone and stow the rope and tennis ball inside for future use. ■

[This article is reprinted with permission from the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Virginia. Learn more at www.sciava.org]





Twenty Years on the Board: A Reflection

By Fred P. Orelove

[Editor's Note: Fred Orelove is retiring from Virginia Commonwealth

University on June 30. Fred joined the Board in July 1991; his last VBPD Board meeting will be June 9.]

One morning each spring for the past 20 years, I have posed with 30-odd colleagues for a photo. (And, yes, that is "30-odd"—an adjective, referring to an approximate number.) We differed in size, gender, and skin color. Some of us were standing, others sitting. We almost always smiled, cajoled to do so by the photographer. The change was constant—or, at least, predictable. Studying the photographs across the years, it is easy to see my hair doing a magic act: disappearing and turning gray before one's eyes.

The other change is obvious: none of the faces in 2011, except mine, have remained the same. Since 1991, I have served alongside about 200 fellow Board members. They came from all parts of the Commonwealth, with varying interests and viewpoints. I argued with many of them, and almost always returned months later to share a laugh. Our differences paled compared to what we shared: a desire to help Virginians with disabilities find

the supports they needed—and deserved—to live the lives of their choosing.

I have sat through well over 600 hours of Board meetings and read mountains of reports, minutes, and grant proposals. But it is the people I will remember best—dedicated Board members and terrific staff, as well as the dozens of self-advocates and family members who were Partners in Policymaking and the high school students who attended a Youth Leadership.

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities—even the name is different since 1991—has matured tremendously. Its leadership—especially under Heidi Lawyer's tenure—has enabled the Board to play an increasingly important role in the Commonwealth on behalf of people with disabilities. The shift to a policy-driven agenda in the past five years has been transformative. There has been growing coherence between the Board's plan, the projects it supports, and the policy directives described within its comprehensive Assessment. The importance of this shift cannot be overstated, especially because the relative level of Virginia's investment in people with disabilities has remained woefully low.

Starting later this year, the Partnership for People with Disabilities will have a new representative at the meetings. The Board will gain from this individual's new energy and ideas—and possibly even more hair! ■

Governor Seeks Candidates for Upcoming Board Vacancies

By Nan Pemberton

The Commonwealth of Virginia is now accepting applications for 2011 appointments to all boards and commissions. Board appointments are made by the Governor and specific Board slots must be filled in accordance with federal and state statute. The VBPD will have 8 vacancies (slots) effective July 1, 2011. Slots to be filled include: Person with Developmental Disabilities (3 vacancies); Parent or Guardian of Individual with Developmental Disability (3 vacancies); and Relative/Guardian of Individual with Mentally Impairing Developmental Disability (2 vacancies).

VBPD appointees must be able to commit time and energy towards attending a minimum of four meetings a year, usually in Richmond, and engage in other

Board related activities which may include required attendance at additional meetings.

If you are interested in being considered for a Board appointment, please be sure to apply at <http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/> using the online application system. Applicants who applied last year do not need to reapply. If you have any questions about the application process or if you need assistance or reasonable accommodations to complete your application, you may contact the Director of Appointments, Jennifer Aulgur at: Jennifer.aulgur@governor.virginia.gov.

There are many Boards and Commissions in Virginia, besides VBPD, that can benefit from the perspective of individuals with disabilities, family members, and advocates. The website above provides a listing of all available vacancies. We encourage you to review the entire list to see if there are other Board openings where you may be interested in contributing your knowledge and expertise!

Partners in Policymaking

By Erin Hickey



On March 12, class members delivered passionate testimony in a mock committee hearing chaired by Delegate Matthew James from Portsmouth, VA. Other panelists were Mary-Margaret Cash from the Dept. of Rehabilitative Services, Clyde Mathews from the Va. Office of Protection and Advocacy, Lee Price from the Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, plus Kara White and Heidi Lawyer from staff and Ed Turner from the Board.

At the final session in May, the Partners will present final projects, developed during their training, that utilize their newfound skills and represent the first steps on a lifelong path to advocacy. At graduation ceremonies on May 14, the newest Partners in Policymaking will hear from internationally recognized speaker Dr. Al Condeluci (www.alcondeluci.com). Since 1973, Dr. Condeluci has worked as an attendant, caseworker, advocate, planner, program director and now serves as CEO of UCP/CLASS. UCP/

CLASS has created a family of corporations and is dedicated to its mission—"working towards a community where each belongs."

For information on how to become a Partner and better find your way as an advocate, visit www.vaboard.org/policymaking.htm.



Jen Krajewski (*Chesterfield*)

“Once you receive a diagnosis of Down Syndrome you enter another world...It’s a world of can’t and won’t and low expectations. Thankfully, we never took much stock in can’ts and won’ts.”

“I strongly urge you to propose and re-evaluate these areas of the disabilities service system...neglected for many years:

1. Working towards eliminating ID/DD Waiver wait lists completely so that kids can get support and parents can focus by giving time and energy towards contributing building stronger communities.
2. To overcome the lack of employment opportunity for people with disabilities...provide adequate educational services to successfully transition from the school...leading to independent living and employable skills.
3. We also need to **end sub-minimum wages**, which are exploiting the work of people with disabilities. There are recommendations to continue to provide pre-vocational training without a time limit. This has brought us to a national disgrace in which far too many individuals with disabilities have life-long segregation and never experience community employment. **We should look for full participation; disability services needs to get rid of segregated, pre-vocational readiness training, period.”** ■



Dhiren Desai
(*Glen Allen*)

The Livable Home Tax Credit: Access for Everyone

By Teri Barker-Morgan

The Virginia Livable Home Tax Credit (LHTC) program improves accessibility and visitability by providing state tax credits for the purchase of a new accessible home or the retrofitting of an existing home. The 2011 Virginia General Assembly unanimously approved increasing the LHTC from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Additionally, the General Assembly approved expanding eligibility for the tax credit to home builders.

Awareness and understanding about the benefits of housing that includes “universal design” features is no longer new. The baby boom generation is aging—often in place—and is altering the way society thinks about aging as well as the choices available during the “golden years.” There are plenty of differences between the disability community and aging population, yet common interests have also created common allies. Universal design concepts have significant impact on people with disabilities as well as the aging community.

The days of the word “accessible” conjuring up images of cold, sterile and institutional environments are gone. Accessible means livable and sustainable—today and tomorrow. Accessibility is integrated during design, making it visually and aesthetically appealing. The Commonwealth has taken a leadership role to educate the aging and disability communities, and the community at large, about universal design and accessibility. Expansion of the Livable Home Tax Credit further educates builders, realtors, and the public on the benefits and beauty of accessibility—and tax credits to builders provides an incentive to construct multiple accessible homes in any given development where all neighbors can visit.

The Virginia Livable Home Tax Credit (LHTC) is a \$5,000 tax credit for the purchase of a newly constructed residence with accessible features integrated into the construction and up to 50 percent of the cost of retrofitting an existing home, not to exceed \$5,000. Any tax credit that exceeds the eligible individual’s tax liability may be carried forward for up to five years. Administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, learn more at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov>. ■

Young Leaders Shine!

By Kara White



Matthew Shapiro, YLF 2007 alumni, was selected to participate as an intern in the American Association of Persons with Disabilities (AAPD) Summer Internship Program. College students, law students, and graduate students with disabilities are offered the opportunity to work in public service for ten weeks on Capitol Hill and at federal agencies.

Past interns have worked with Senator Barack Obama (D-IL); Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS); Senator Hilary Clinton (D-NY); Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY); Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA); Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA); and at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); U.S. Department of Commerce; and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The 2011 AAPD Summer Internships Program for Students with Disabilities is sponsored by Walmart, the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation and the HSC Foundation. Interns receive a stipend, travel to and from DC, and fully-accessible housing.

Adam Amick, YLF 2007 alumni, was accepted into the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. Adam was selected as one of 28 college students for this summer’s highly competitive program. The Institute’s goal is to “prepare the Commonwealth’s emerging leaders for public service as candidates for office, government officials and citizen activists in the affairs of their communities, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation. This is accomplished through educational programs designed around ethics, public policy, and practical politics.”

The Sorensen Institute has approximately 1,200 graduates of its various programs. A total of 23 alumni have been elected to the Virginia General Assembly, 18 of whom were sworn in for the 2010 session—two in the Senate and 16 in the House. Dozens more have been appointed to boards and commissions, while more than 100 have been elected to local office.

Adam feels his experience speaking to the Disability Commission, and working with his state delegate to sponsor a joint resolution to establish the month of October as Disability History and Awareness Month in the Commonwealth, helped secure his acceptance.

Changing Mindsets One Person at a Time

By Katherine Lawson

The DD Act, which funds councils across the U.S. (including the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities), contains a mandate that a statewide group of people with developmental disabilities will speak and plan for themselves... e.g., become system change agents.

VBPD's five-year state plan (the new one is in development; please visit www.vaboard.org to see the draft goals and objectives) has a goal regarding self-determination and policy influence. That goal has recently become reality with the creation of a 501(c)3 known as Virginia Advocates United Leading Together (VAULT).

Educating policymakers takes time. So does gathering momentum to create a statewide nonprofit organization to mobilize people with all types of disabilities.

Through collaboration with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, and years of grant projects, VBPD has supported the process to bring the perspective of networked self-advocates to public policy makers at state and local levels.

The cross-disability collaborative represents multiple advocacy organizations; 40+ self-advocates and several groups have been brought together from across the Commonwealth. The Board envisions the impact of the group will be significant, and that collateral partnerships will increase, reducing financial burdens and ensuring sustainability.

Groups and organizations represented on VAULT's board of directors include:

Autistic Self-Advocacy Network

Hearing Loss Association

People First

Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL)

Virginia Association of DeafBlind

Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL)

Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Alumni

Congratulations to Virginia Advocates United Leading Together—it's time to share advocacy, support, and knowledge with each other and lawmakers so that those living with disabilities can direct their lives and be active participating members of their communities! ■

[For more information about VAULT, contact Jack Brandt, Policy Specialist, Partnership for People with Disabilities, brandtj@vcu.edu or 804-328-1352.]



Meetings of Interest

05/04/2011

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

Contact: (804) 662-9502 or <http://www.vddhh.org>

05/04-05/2011

Person-Centered Thinking Training Partnership for People with Disabilities

Contact: (804) 828-3876 or <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/PCT/index.html>

14150 Parkeast Circle, Suite 240
Chantilly, VA 20151

05/09/2011, 10:30am

State Rehabilitation Council

Contact: (804) 662-7010 or Barbara.Tyson@drs.virginia.gov
DRS Central Office
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, VA 23239

05/17/2011

Kaleidoscope: New Perspectives in Service Coordination, Level II Partnership for People with Disabilities

Contact: (804) 828-3876 or <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/PCT/index.html>

Wingate by Wyndham
13991 North Gayton Rd.
Richmond, VA 23233

06/09/2011, 10:00am

Virginia Assistive Technology Advisory Council (DRS)

Contact: (804) 662-9994 or Robert.Krollman@drs.virginia.gov
DRS Central Office
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, VA 23229

06/11/2011, 10:00am

Statewide Rehabilitation Council for the Blind for the Department for the Blind

Contact: (804) 371-3184 or Susan.Payne@dbvi.virginia.gov
Comfort Suites Inn

10601 Telegraph Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

06/14/2011, 10:00am

Board of Medical Assistance Services

Contact: (804) 786-8096 or Mamie.White@dmas.virginia.gov
DMAS

600 E. Broad Street, 13th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

06/24/2011, 10:00am

Disabilities Advisory Council
Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

Contact: (800) 552-3962 or Kim.Mendella@vopa.virginia.gov
VOPA Office

1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 5
Richmond, VA 23230

07/12/2011, 1:00pm

Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired Quarterly Meeting

Contact: (804) 371-3110 or Eva.Ampey@dbvi.virginia.gov
DBVI Administrative Headquarters
397 Azalea Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

07/14-15/2011

State Special Education Advisory Committee

Contact: (804) 225-3252

07/16/2011, 10:00am

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy: PAIMI

Contact: (800) 552-3962 or Lisa.Shehi@vopa.virginia.gov
Richmond, VA

07/27/2011, 1:00pm

Virginia Brain Injury Council Meeting

Contact: (804) 662-7000
(Kristie L. Chamberlain)
DRS Central Office
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, VA 23239

08/07/2011

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

Contact: (804) 662-9502 or <http://www.vddhh.org>

08/08/2011, 10:30am

State Rehabilitation Council

Contact: (804) 662-7010 or Barbara.Tyson@drs.virginia.gov
DRS Central Office
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, VA 23239

General Assembly

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Item 320 1c adds \$192,372 the second year from the general fund to restore funding for Dept. of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) **Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS)**. This amendment only restores the second year reduction, not the first year reduction.

Item 320 2c includes \$106,328 the second year from the general fund to restore funding for the DRS **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.

Item 320 3c includes \$388,279 the second year from the general fund for DRS **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 contract with Didlake, an employment services organization that provides vocational services for people with physical disabilities, to expand.

Item 320 5c provides \$160,000 from the general fund the second year to partially restore funding to the **Centers for Independent Living** that was reduced in the last year's budget actions.

Item 343 1c reduces \$1.0 million each year from the general fund provided in the introduced budget for **vocational rehabilitation services** provided through the

Department of the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) and makes a technical correction to the agency appropriation as reported in the introduced budget. ■

To view legislation go to: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?111+men+BIL>

To view budget actions go to: <http://leg2.state.va.us/>

Looking Ahead: Plan for Disability Awareness

Fall seems a long time away, but don't forget to start planning now since October is Disability History and Awareness Month.

Efforts began to educate the public about issues related to disability and employment in 1945. Congress enacted Public Law 176, declaring the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to encompass individuals with all types of disabilities.

In 2009, the Virginia Senate adopted a resolution to encourage activities during October to raise public awareness for individuals with disabilities with a goal of full inclusion in their communities.

A toolkit of information, including lesson plans and other ideas for all ages, can be found at www.virginiaselfadvocacy.org so mark your calendar before the school year ends!

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