
VIRGINIA BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Commonwealth of Virginia

Board Policy 1.0: Purpose and Function

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) is established by Section 51.5-31 of the Code of Virginia to carry out the requirements of Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and such additional duties as prescribed in Code of Virginia Section 51.5-33.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Board is to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that are consistent with the purpose of Public Law 106.402 and Section 51.5-31 of Code of Virginia. These activities shall contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family centered and directed comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self determination and be independent, productive, and integrated into all facets of community life. The Board shall serve as the Commonwealth's forum for matters pertaining to developmental disabilities and act as Advisor to the Governor and other officials on such matters.

II. Powers and Duties

In accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 51.5-31 and Public Law 106-402, the Board has the following Powers and Duties related to its purpose:

- A. To advise the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Governor on issues and problems of interest to persons with disabilities and on such other matters as either the Secretary or the Governor may request;
- B. To perform all duties and exercise all powers designated by federal law for such state planning councils, including the responsibility for planning activities on behalf of all developmentally disabled persons in the Commonwealth; for receiving, accounting for and disbursing federal funds; for developing and approving the state plan; and for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of such plan for the provision of services and facilities for persons with developmental disabilities;
- C. To educate and advocate for innovative change in programs and policies affecting persons with developmental disabilities including educating policymakers and legislators on the state and federal level regarding policies, programs and services that affect persons with developmental disabilities;
- D. To promote public awareness and public understanding regarding issues pertaining to developmental and other disabilities;

- E. To respond to other matters that the Board feels lies within the intent, directives, and guidelines of its federal and state enabling statutes;
- F. To create a five year state plan of action based upon public input which guides the Board in its allocation of resources and to annually review and evaluate the state plan and submit to the Governor and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services or his/her designee;
- G. To submit biennially to the Governor, through the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, an assessment of the needs of persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth, the success in the preceding biennium of the state agencies in meeting those needs, programmatic and fiscal recommendations for improving the delivery of services to persons with disabilities, and an assessment of the biennial economic cost and benefit to the Commonwealth of the services and rights afforded persons with disabilities as established in this title;
- H. To serve as the State Planning Council for the administration of certain federal public health and welfare laws as provided in § 6000 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

III. Board Activities

The Board undertakes a variety of activities in order to achieve its purpose and fulfill its powers and duties. The following are examples of activities that the Board shall undertake; however these examples shall not constitute an exhaustive list. The Board through its staff and membership shall:

- A. Monitor, review, and evaluate, not less than annually, the implementation of the State Plan;
- B. Encourage and support effective coordination of activities and programs in the Commonwealth for persons with developmental and other disabilities;
- C. Recommend to the Governor, other executive branch agencies and legislators as appropriate, plans, policies, and procedures to develop and enhance quality, manageable, effective and deliverable program services for persons with developmental and other disabilities;
- D. Study ways and means of promoting public awareness and understanding of developmental and other disabilities; consider existing legislation and recommend changes and/or new laws affecting persons with developmental and other disabilities;
- E. Endorse and support activities which will contribute to goals and objectives of comprehensive statewide planning and the implementation of programs for persons with developmental and other disabilities in the Commonwealth;
- F. To the maximum extent feasible, review and comment on other state plans within the Commonwealth that relate to programs affecting persons with developmental or other disabilities;

G. Review and act on other matters as determined to be necessary.

Adopted by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Date: May 5, 2004