



connection

The Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities Council

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Asset Development to Help Secure the Future

By Teri Barker Morgan

For the first time, the VBPD's five year state plan includes an objective on asset development for persons with disabilities:

Objective CS 2-5. *Educate state policymakers regarding best practices and mechanisms for personal asset development that can enable individuals with developmental and other disabilities to have a more secure and independent financial future.*

At the December 7, 2011 Community Living and Transportation Committee meeting, John Kregel with VCU's Work Incentive Planning and Assistance National Training Center defined asset development as an *"anti-poverty strategy that advances economic opportunity by facilitating the development of personal and financial assets for low-income individuals and families."*

People with disabilities have lower employment levels, lower levels of savings, and are more likely to experience poverty than those without disabilities. Mr. Kregel reported the following statistics:

- ▶ 71% of SSI beneficiaries currently live below the poverty level.
- ▶ 50 % of individuals with disabilities are "unbanked." Individuals who are unbanked do not have access to financial services (including savings, credit, money transfers, insurance or pensions) through any type of financial sector organization such as banks, non-bank financial institutions, financial cooperatives and credit unions.
- ▶ Only 10% of individuals with disabilities own their own home, as compared to 65% of working age adults.

The Corporation For Enterprise Development (CFED), a national nonprofit based in Washington, DC dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for low-income families and communities, states that *"while a paycheck helps to buy things like food and clothing and pay the bills each month, an asset provides financial security for the future."* Michael Sherraden with the Center for Social Development concurs with CFED stating that *"few people have ever spent their way out of poverty. Those who escape do so through saving and investing for the long-term."*

The lifelong consequences of poverty experienced by people with disabilities is the subject of a national dialogue sparking innovative ideas in both policy and program strategies. One asset development opportunity that continues to be underutilized by individuals with disabilities is the Earned Income Tax

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* Agency Designees

From the Director

We are about to ring in 2012 and get set for another tough budget and legislative session, always a time of reflection. I am approaching my 11th anniversary as Director of the Virginia Board and 20+ years in disability advocacy, starting back in 1989 as parent advocate for my son. The time has gone by quickly. My son is now 25 and I have aged at least half that amount of years... The world has changed a great deal as has our Commonwealth. There have been many improvements in services, supports and attitudes. But for individuals with developmental and other disabilities, the global issues remain the same—lack of employment opportunities; low educational expectations; people living in institutions; inadequate transportation and housing; continuing myths and stereotypes. We have a long way to go before we have truly inclusive communities in which *Virginians with developmental and other disabilities direct their own lives and choose how they live, learn, work, and play.*

One of the areas in which great progress has been made is the cultivation of youth leaders who are the key to change, now and in the future. The Board is privileged to assist young people with disabilities emerge as change agents through both our Youth Leadership Forum and our Partners in Policymaking program. But we also see terrific young people gaining skills through the Dept. of Education's *I'm Determined* project and working at Centers for Independent Living and other advocacy organizations



like local Arcs. Most importantly we see our youth increasingly engaged in grassroots advocacy on the local, regional and statewide level—testifying before the General Assembly, speaking before the school boards, promoting disability history and awareness, serving on boards and commissions and most importantly, determining their own future.

For those of us who are beginning to gray (or are already there), the emergence of young leaders is both gratifying and critical. The youth with whom we have had the honor to work and interact have a vision for the future which does not include segregated classrooms or sheltered employment. It does not include institutions or medical providers unable to accommodate their disability. It does not include the proliferation of stereotypes about what they can or cannot accomplish. And it does not include other people, even their family members, making decisions about how, where or with whom they lead their lives. It is their determination of the young and their energy, commitment, and willingness to speak out that will result in great strides over the next 20 years and a Commonwealth of opportunity for all. ■

Budget Proposals Impact Disability Services

Below are highlights of Governor McDonnell's proposed 2013 and 2014 budget. The Governor's proposed budget will affect individuals with disabilities through a variety of spending initiatives and reductions. The listing below is a brief excerpt of many proposed budget actions that will affect Virginians, including those with disabilities. For the full text of the **Governor's budget presentation** to the General Assembly on December 19, go to <http://1.usa.gov/vhXUCy>

To view the **entire proposed budget**, visit: <http://1.usa.gov/usLTMs>

The General Assembly will make significant changes of its own before submitting a final budget bill to the Governor at the close of its 2012 session.

Highlights from the Governor's Budget Proposals

(language excerpted and/or summarized from budget document and agency sources)

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

- ▶ **Increases funding for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Trust Fund.** Deposits an additional \$30,000,000 in FY 2013 (\$30 million was placed in the Trust Fund in FY 2012) for the expansion of community-based developmental services, including the addition of waiver slots and transitional services for those exiting training centers.

Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS)

- ▶ **Eliminate expenditure category for wrap around services in public schools.** Shifts these services from the mandated to the non-mandated pool, noting that the extension of services was made by State Executive Council policy and is not required by Code. (FY 13 and FY 14 reductions of \$5,401,216 in each year). Adds \$700,000 to non mandated pool to offset a portion of the loss of funds.

Department of Health (VDH)

- ▶ Provides funding for **additional medical facility inspectors.** Supports an additional 13 full-time positions to address the shortage of medical facility inspectors, including long term care facility inspectors. (Provides for \$548,864 GF and \$793,486 NGF in FY 13 and \$541,064 GF and \$781,786 NGF in FY 14)
- ▶ **Restructures local dental services** by closing state supported dental clinics and expanding a pilot project involving remote supervision of dental hygienists. (Savings of \$967,944 GF and \$696,362 NGF in FY 13 and \$996,944 GF and \$696,362 NGF) in FY 14.

Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

- ▶ Consolidates the **HIV/AIDS waiver into the Elderly and Disabled with Consumer Direction (EDCD)** waiver. Provides authority for the agency to combine the services into one waiver noting medical advances over time and a steady decline in participation in the HIV/AIDS waiver (current enrollment is 37 individuals).
- ▶ **Reduces income limits for optional long-term care eligibility group.** Effective January 1, 2014, reduces the income limit to obtain Medicaid benefits for nursing facility or long-term care **waiver coverage** from 300% of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—currently \$2,094 to 250% of SSI, currently \$1,745/month. (GF savings of \$18,217,758 in 2014; equal amount in NGF which is brought in as match).
- ▶ **Reduces personal care hours** from 56 hours to 48 hours per week. The limit does apply to the ID or DD Waivers. There is an exception process to exceed the limit if certain criteria are met. (GF savings of \$1,000,000 in FY 13 and in FY 14; equal amount of NGF which is brought in as match).
- ▶ Modifies **service limits in the Children's Mental Health Program.** Provides emergency authority to modify regulations to enable transition coordinators to support children and their families for up to one year after they are discharged into the community rather than the current limit of up to three months prior to leaving a private residential treatment facility and 30 days after.

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Budget Proposals

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- ▶ **Expands managed care statewide for foster care population. Adds children in foster care as population to be covered with managed care.** Provides authority and funding for one position to coordinate enrollment on a regional basis (Project savings of \$2,827,628 GF and an equal amount of NGF in 2013 and \$2,703,011 GF and an equal amount of NGF in 2014).

Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)

- ▶ **Increases special fund appropriation for vocational rehabilitation (VR) program.** Provides additional special fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 in FY 2013 and FY 2014 so that DRS can meet federal maintenance of effort requirements for the VR program. The source of revenue is from other disability service agencies that pay DRS to provide administrative services for their operations.
- ▶ **Transfers federal appropriation from community rehabilitation program (CRP) to VR program.** Transfers \$1.4 million in order to meet required Federal VR match projections. The CRP program is noted to have excess federal appropriation.
- ▶ **Provides money to maintain funding level for VR program.** The state is required to fund 21.3 percent of the VR program for matching purposes. State funding is no longer adequate to meet the match requirement. Adds \$3,405,533 GF for FY 13 and FY 14 to enable DRS to maintain level VR program funding.
- ▶ **Reduces administrative costs** related to office support for the Office of Community Integration and Centers for Independent Living. (GF reduction of \$22,347 in FY 13 and in FY 14).
- ▶ Reduces employment support services and long-term extended support services provided to individuals with disabilities (GF reduction of \$268,063 in FY 13 and in FY 14).
- ▶ **Reduces funding for personal assistance services,** long term case management, brain injury discretionary services fund, brain injury contracts, and independent living Part C. (GF reduction of \$401,222 in FY 13 and in FY 14).

Department for the Aging

- ▶ **Eliminates funding for Commissioner's salary.** The position is correctly vacant and the interim Commissioner is the Commissioner of DRS (GF savings of \$100,000 in FY 13 and FY 14).
- ▶ **Eliminates directed appropriations for non state agencies.** Reduces state support by 50 percent 2013 and eliminates state funding in FY 2014 to a variety of non-state agencies (FY 13 reduction of \$386,722; FY 14 reduction of \$767,945).
- ▶ **Reduces funding for home and community-based services.** Reduces funding by 1.8 percent for in-home and community based services provided by 25 Area Agencies on Aging (such as adult day care, homemaker, personal care, and transportation; Reduction of \$131,853 in FY 13 and in FY 14).

Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDH)

- ▶ **Transfers positions.** Three GF positions are transferred from VDDHH to the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS). These positions are no needed because the functions are handled by DRS.
- ▶ **Lowers number of sign language interpreters** provided for 12 step program. Reduces the number of interpreters provided for 12 step programs not covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (\$16,900 GF reduction in FY 13 and in FY 14). ■

Asset Development

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Credit (EITC). The EITC is a fully refundable tax credit for low-wage earners between the ages of 25 and 60. Many employed individuals with a disability are eligible for the tax credit; since they are under no obligation to file a tax return, they do not file and miss out on the tax credit.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is an initiative to reach people with disabilities to claim the credit and learn about building assets. The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$50,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing. **To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-906-9887.** Please share this information with individuals, families and service providers.

An additional resource is **Accessible Times**, a periodic newsletter that shares resources, tools and information to promote accessible services for all customers. It can be found at www.disAbilityNavigator.org, click on "Planning My Future" then "Taxes." ■

Register Once, Vote Easily: The Annual Absentee Application

By Terry Wagoner

The Virginia State Board of Elections, in partnership with the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, is moving forward with initiatives which would greatly increase access to the voting process for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

In the last several months, the State Board of Elections has dedicated resources to the hiring of an Accessibility and Absentee Voting Coordinator to improve accessibility of polling sites, improve the absentee voting process, and expand the utilization of the Virginia Annual Absentee Ballot Application by individuals with disabilities and those with long term illnesses.

The Annual Absentee Ballot Application allows registered voters to apply to receive an absentee ballot for each election in which they are eligible to vote in a given calendar year. This application is for voters who are unable to go in person to the polls on Election Day because of their disability or illness for the rest of the calendar year.

The envisioned Annual Absentee Ballot Application Initiative encompasses developing annual application training modules, developing an outreach and target market schedule for the coming months, and educating local registrars about the efficiencies of using the annual application form, including automatic notification to registrants to ease their annual re-application process.

This process significantly reduces the cumbersome form procedures and the redundancy now encountered by voters, who in some localities have to request up to four applications in one year. In addition, it would reduce travel burdens and postage costs encountered by individuals with disabilities. The annual application also offers automatic notification for re-registration. Overall, the annual application initiative would greatly help individuals with developmental and other disabilities better understand their options and the voting process.

Please look for more information in the upcoming months of other initiatives from the State Board of Elections and the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities concerning improved voting access for people with disabilities.

If you have any questions please call or email

Terry.Wagoner@SBE.Virginia.gov or call 804-864-8937.

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities Requests for FFY 2013 Competitive Grant Proposals

By Lynne Talley

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, the state's Developmental Disabilities Council, has identified two objectives from its 2012-2016 federal State Plan and related 2011 Assessment of the Disability Service System recommendations for which it seeks proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 competitive grant awards. The Board has \$500,000 available for 2013 grant awards. The first objective is related to community supports; the second objective is education-related. Board grants are 100% federally funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Admin. for Children & Families, Admin. on Developmental Disabilities.

The 2013 RFP Booklet, forms and other important documents needed to complete an application are available on the Board's website at www.vaboard.org. The deadline for Letters of Interest, step 1 of the application process, is January 31, 2012. Questions regarding grants management or general guidelines for the RFP process should be directed to Lynne Talley, Grants Manager, at (804) 786-9375 or toll free (800) 846-4464 (Voice/TDD) or by email at Lynne.Talley@vbpd.virginia.gov. Additional contact information is available in the RFP Booklet.

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Annual Conference

By Katherine Lawson

On November 15-17, 2011, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities held its annual conference in Maryland entitled, "Building Bridges, Meeting the Expectations of a New Generation."

Media articles, including one in *Education Week* (December 13, 2011) reflect a growing trend: families are increasingly interested in their children with disabilities residing in the community and being engaged in community life. At the conference, the topics of seeking higher education, lifelong integration into all facets of community life and especially a value on "work first" initiatives were featured. Youth who are growing up with their peers are more apt to be included in every facet of community activity such as social and recreation opportunities as well as education. Thus they are interested in seeking higher education and going to work, as well as acquiring their own homes and having access to transportation to ensure they can reach their life goals. The topics of the NACDD conference were highly congruent with the Board's state plan priorities and focus in public policy. Participants at the conference from Virginia included several staff to the Board as well as two Board members, Maggie Disney and Korinda Rusinyak.

The program included a mix of keynote addresses, panel discussions and breakout sessions that featured a wide array of experts including leaders from the federal government, state Councils and other agencies as well as the private sector. Taken together, there was a clear emphasis upon the concerted and coordinated efforts that leaders will have to make from all walks of life to successfully meet the expectations of a new generation of families.

Maggie Disney and Korinda Rusinyak reflected on the experience:

Although the conference covered an array of topics, the main focus was to address the transition from school to high education or employment. Over a span of two days, multiple workshops and general sessions were conducted in which council members were educated on various topics such as the role of the school in the transition process, changes that could potentially be made to better equip the work field for individuals with disabilities, and the importance of listening to the individual during this vital process.

One of the key areas of discussion centered on the gaps in the transition process, and what needs to be done to address that, and ultimately better serve people with disabilities. The conference was a vital educational opportunity, as well as the networking with other Councils around the nation.

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NACDD Annual Conference

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Numerous workshops related to criminal justice services, advocacy with legislators, paths to employment such as Project SEARCH and Think College, ensuring greater inclusion on college campuses, effective coalition building, as well as non-deficit models of thinking related to individuals with developmental and other disabilities, were part of the event. ■

Use of National Core Indicators begins in Virginia

By Linda Redmond, PhD

An ongoing concern of many advocates and their families has been the quality and effectiveness of services, which requires meaningful, consistent oversight—and reliable, valid outcome data. An important new initiative to monitor outcomes of services for individuals with intellectual or other developmental disabilities (ID/DD) is about to begin. Virginia, through its Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), was one of five states awarded a grant from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). The DBHDS now joins 25 other states participating in the National Core Indicators (NCI) project.

Leading the NCI project within DBHDS is the Office of Developmental Services (ODS), which received notification of its selection in mid-December 2011. Lee Price, ODS Director commented: “The Department is very pleased

that we will be able to join in this national effort... We will not only be able to see more clearly where we are succeeding and where we need to step up efforts, we will also be able to compare our progress toward quality outcomes to the progress made in other states using similar measures.”

DBHDS received partial funding from the NASDDDS (\$43,200) and will support the project with \$40,000 in state funds. The Office of Developmental Services (ODS) received a \$10,000 project award from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities for the first year of operation. Heidi Lawyer, VBPD Director, said “This initiative is consistent with the Board’s position, in its *2011 Assessment of the Disability Services System*, is that ‘to ensure accountability, state agencies must have the capacity and a mandate for identifying, collecting, and analyzing meaningful outcome data for each program or services.’”

Current NCI performance indicators include approximately 100 consumer, family, systemic, cost, and health and safety outcomes. Data are collected from various sources for each indicator, which include: a consumer survey (e.g., empowerment and choice issues); family surveys (e.g., satisfaction with supports); a provider survey (e.g., staff turnover); and state systems data (e.g., expenditures, mortality, etc.).

DBHDS, along with its partners, began planning NCI implementation in January 2012, after which training of survey interviewers begins. Data

collection will begin the next month; and first year data collection will be completed by June 30, 2012. DBHDS will contract with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, to implement the NCI.

For Virginia’s first year of the NCI project, two surveys for data collection will be conducted. A family survey, (currently in use) will be reviewed and updated, if needed, to include additional information required of the NCI Family survey. The final survey version will be distributed at annual planning meetings to family members of individuals who receive active case management—the group which now participates in the ODS family survey.

The second survey is for consumers: individuals who receive services through the state’s Medicaid Intellectual Disabilities Waiver as well as individuals who have recently moved or are in the process of moving from state institutions into community living. For the consumer survey, Partnership staff will: select a representative sample from each group; contact the individuals to determine if they are interested in participating in the survey; schedule and conduct interviews; and prepare data files. A minimum of 400 surveys will be completed.

Lee Price noted, “Participation in this project marks a milestone in Virginia’s effort to improve the quality outcomes for individuals receiving services and supports through its Waiver program.” ■

Looking for the Best in Tomorrow's Leaders

By Kara White



Inquires from students, parents, and educators about applying to Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) 2012 are on the rise! Alumni are sharing their YLF experiences with their schools and communities. Violet Strawderman (class of 2011) shared her YLF experience with educators at the College of William & Mary and was also asked to speak at King George and Culpeper County High Schools. Doniella Kissinger, another YLF 2011 alum, learned so much at the YLF she was asked by her high school transition coordinator to share her experience with ninth and tenth graders of South County Secondary School.

Another buzz generating event was the November 2011 *I'm Determined Youth Summit* sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education. YLF alum, new and old, participated in record numbers further enhancing their leadership development. Those who were not first-time *I'm Determined* participants were elected to lead over 130 students and shared information about the opportunity to be a YLF student delegate.

Peers, educators, and parents have had the opportunity to witness the value of the Youth Leadership Forum in those demonstrating their leadership capabilities.

Attention Leaders: Recruitment for YLF 2012 Is Underway!

July 23-27, 2012 at Virginia Commonwealth University

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is looking for rising high school juniors or seniors with disabilities who are motivated, embrace diversity, eager to develop their leadership skills and have a desire to share their thoughts and opinions.

To be considered to become a YLF Student Delegate, the **six page application, two reference letters, and all other required information must be received by close of business, March 30, 2012.** For additional information visit www.vaboard.org/ylf.htm, e-mail Kara.White@vbpd.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-846-4464 (toll-free, voice & TTY). Electronic submission of applications is strongly encouraged.

Good News From YLF Graduates



Christian Metzler won an Inspireum Soccer Award. The Inspireum Soccer Awards celebrate inspirational young athletes who embody the values of character, courage, contribution and commitment through soccer.

Joey Barnett was appointed to serve in the National Youth Leadership Network.



Joseph Wilkinson was accepted into Davis & Elkins College.

Michael Williams was chosen as head team captain of his high school swim team.



Collin Knight attended the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia State Convention.

Partners in Policymaking Update

By Rachel Loria

Last fall 27 new Partners in Policymaking gathered at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in order to begin their eight month experience learning about disability policy and advocacy. The first three of eight PIP sessions have been described as overwhelming, enlightening and challenging.

At the September session, after brief introductions, the Partners met Ginny Cooke, from the Phoenix Firth Institute. Partners learned about what life was like in the past for people with disabilities and how past advocates helped to create the society we are living in today. They learned about the self advocacy movement from local disability rights movement leaders Ed Turner and Kelly Hickok. They learned not only about the triumphs and struggles that the speakers faced, but also how to advocate for change within their community. The session culminated with the class discussing and developing their vision for the future.

On October 8, Partners heard from Kathie Snow, who encouraged them to challenge the stereotype that people who have disabilities are different and embrace the tenet that “disability is a natural part of the human experience.” She advocated for inclusion in the classroom, community, and everyday life. When Partners left the session Friday evening, many had a different view on how to advocate for themselves and their loved ones. On Saturday, Maureen Hollowell educated the Partners about the current services system and the different types of Medicaid Waivers available including eligibility criteria and how to apply.



Left: Bobby Silverstein goes over the complexities of the public policy process.

In November, Partners returned for their third session and heard from well known disability rights attorney Bobby Silverstein on how to be an effective disability policy change agent. They also learned about negotiation and problem solving skills. On Saturday, the class heard from Charlie and Maria Girsch, who engaged them with thinking strategies and skill building activities encouraging Partners to stretch their thinking by deviating from their daily habits.

Overall, the 2012 class of Partners in Policymaking is off to a great start! The Partners are excited to come to every session, and they have already started commenting about how the program is changing their lives for the better. ■



Above: Kathie Snow educates Partners on questions to ask in order to create positive change.

Become an Effective Advocate: Be a Partner in 2013!

Ever wonder how people with developmental disabilities can live independently? Learn how to build positive relationships with families, schools, employers, and elected officials—and raise awareness while impacting local, state, and national policies. Partners in Policymaking is an eight month leadership and advocacy training program for parents of young children with disabilities and adult self advocates. Graduates commit to continued advocacy and active participation in the public discussion of policies and practices that affect the lives of people with disabilities. Get more information and download your application to participate in the 2012-2013 cycle of Partners in Policymaking at <http://vaboard.org/policymaking.htm>.

Completed applications and reference letters are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2012.

The 2011 Governor's Housing Conference: Framing the Future

By Teri Barker Morgan



Billie Campbell and Will Cockrell with the Thomas Jefferson Planning Commission

The 2011 Governor's Housing Conference took place November 16-18 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. The conference sessions covered a range of housing issues from "green" building to "liveable" communities. Broad coverage and discussion on the Virginia Governor's Housing Policy Framework helped both seasoned professionals and newcomers learn about emerging issues and opportunities.

A five hour pre-conference session titled "Getting Transportation and Housing Right" brought together local planners and Planning District Commission members to learn how the Transportation and

Housing Alliance (THA) Toolkit can help with their planning activities. Designed by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) through a VBPD grant, the Toolkit increases the knowledge and understanding of planning tools for inclusive communities to better meet the needs of those with disabilities and others commonly left out of the planning process. TJPDC staff Billie Campbell and Will Cockrell guided session participants through the Toolkit's sections, fact sheets, and assessment tools while answering questions and providing insight on the importance of integrated planning.

A THA Toolkit compatible topic at this year's conference is the need to reframe housing affordability. Trip Pollard, Director of Land and Community Programs with the Southern Environmental Law Center, spoke about an issue important to many people who experience disability—the connection between jobs, transportation and affordable housing. Mr. Pollard shared that "faced with few affordable options, many people attempt to find less expensive housing by buying or renting farther out, but long

commutes often result in higher transportation costs that erase any savings on shelter." Or, in the case of many people with disabilities reliant on public transportation, buying or renting further out means no affordable transportation options. Jobs, transportation and affordable housing cannot be considered in isolation from one another in the planning of land use and zoning if Americans are to achieve vibrant and inclusive communities.

The conference concluded with a Closing Plenary panel discussion including Bill Shelton, Director, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Susan Dewey, Executive Director, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Elizabeth Palen, Legal Counsel, Virginia Housing Commission, and Robert Sledd, Senior Economic Advisor, Virginia Governor's Office. Panel members shared new initiatives, current program successes and the future direction for housing in Virginia. On the forefront of the discussion was an acknowledgement of the current economic condition in Virginia and the unlikelihood of the funding of a Virginia Housing Trust Fund in the Governor's budget. ■

Social Media Sites

Recently, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities launched a Facebook page and a YouTube channel. New content will be added regularly, so be sure to "like" us on Facebook.

YouTube: www.bit.ly/VBPD_playlist
Facebook: on.fb.me/VBPD_FB



Other Meetings of Interest

State Rehabilitation Council
Monday, 01/23/2012
10:00 a.m.
Contact: (800) 464-9950
www.vadrs.org

Assistive Technology Loan Fund
Authority
Board of Directors
Thursday, 01/26/2012
10:00 a.m.
Contact: (804) 662-7021
www.newwellfund.org

Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services State Human
Rights Committee
Friday, 01/27/2012
8:30 a.m.
Contact: (804) 786-2008
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

Virginia Brain Injury Council Quarterly
Meeting
Friday, 01/27/2012
1:00 p.m.
Contact: (804) 662-7154 or kristie.
chamberlain@drs.virginia.gov
www.vadrs.org

Virginia Office for Protection and
Advocacy Public Awareness and Goals
Committee
Friday, 01/27/2012
4:00 p.m.
Contact: (800) 552-3962
www.vopa.virginia.gov

Statewide Independent Living Council
(SILC) Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 02/08/2012
2:00 p.m.
Contact: (804) 325-1360 or
(800) 464-9950
www.vadrs.org

Assistive Technology Loan Fund
Authority Loan Committee
Wednesday, 02/15/2012
8:30 a.m.
Contact: (804) 662-7021 or (866)
835-5976
www.newwellfund.org

Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Services State
Human Rights Committee
Friday, 03/09/2012
8:30 a.m.
Contact: (804) 786-2008 or
margsaret.walsh@dbhds.virginia.
gov
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

Department of Rehabilitative
Services Community Intergration
Advisory Commission
Tuesday, 03/20/2012
11:00 a.m.
Contact: (804) 662-9968 or
catherine.harrison@drs.virginia.gov
www.vadrs.org

State Special Education Advisory
Committee (SSEAC)
Thursday, 03/22-23/2012
8:30 a.m.
Contact: (804) 225-2540 or
Margaret.Roberts@doe.virginia.gov
www.doe.virginia.gov

Board for the Blind and Visually
Impaired Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, 04/10/2012
1:00 p.m.
Contact: (804) 371-3110 or Eva.
Ampey@DBVI.virginia.gov
www.vdbvi.org



Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

Meetings of the Board

Meetings of the Virginia Board for
People with Disabilities are open to
the public. Please contact Sandra
Smalls (804-786-9368 or Sandra.
Smalls@vbpd.virginia.gov) if you
wish to present public comment
during the Full Board Meeting.

Location

Wyndham Richmond Airport
4700 South Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23231
(804) 226-4300

Dates and Times

03/21/2012
8:30 a.m. Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m. Full Board Meeting

06/06/2012
8:30 a.m. Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m. Full Board Meeting

09/12/2012
8:30 a.m. Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m. Full Board Meeting

12/05/2012
8:30 a.m. Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m. Full Board Meeting

Hampton Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Gives Awards

The Hampton Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities recently recognized several people and organizations:

- ▶ Howmet/Alcoa Castings won the Stephen T. Capovilla Employer of the Year. Howmet Castings employs 13 workers (three full time with benefits) who have disabilities. The company was nominated by the Arc of the Virginia Peninsula.
- ▶ Luke Oliver Miller won the Phil E. Everhart Youth Award. He coordinated a group of volunteers (contributing over 450 hours plus more than 120 of his own time in addition) to build an adaptive garden at the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Oyster Point. He also raised more than \$4,000.00 to purchase dirt, plants, flowers, shovels, fertilizer, and help with construction costs.
- ▶ Alan (AJ) Hughes (Howmet/Alcoa Castings) and Milo Powell (Canon Virginia International) were recognized as Employees of the Year. AJ began working at Howmet in Hampton in 2008 and has mastered several different posts. Milo, with supportive help from Eggleston Services, has a perfect attendance level and has taken the initiative to purchase a car so he can drive to and from work independently.

In addition, the Committee awarded the Charles A. Wornom Helping Hands award to:

- ▶ Jane Hobbs, a dedicated and tireless volunteer for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Jane is the mother of a daughter with Down syndrome, and she is known for her advocacy, love of social events, and fundraising.
- ▶ The Kiwanis Clubs of Division 13, which has 10 clubs and 260 members. Kiwanians regularly complete service projects for citizens with disabilities, and they help educate people in the community about the needs of local people, especially those with disabilities.
- ▶ Rick Barry, a 25-year member of the Northampton Lions Club, and a tireless advocate for those with visual impairments. His dedication to help others is evident by his community service, serving on a variety of boards and committees. ■

Staff Information

Heidi L. Lawyer
Executive Director

Nan Pemberton
Director of Administration

Teri Barker-Morgan
Program Manager

Kelly Bolden
Sr. Fiscal Coordinator

Barbara Dodd
Marketing and Strategic Planning Manager, Council Connection Editor

Erin Hickey
Content Coordinator and Information Specialist, Council Connection Layout

Katherine Lawson
Community Outreach and Program Manager

Rachel Loria
Partners in Policymaking Assistant

Linda Redmond
Research, Policy and Program Manager

Sandra Smalls
Executive Assistant

Lynne Talley
Grants Manager

Kara White
Youth Leadership Forum Assistant



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