

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024

Meeting Attendance



Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Allison Coles-Johnson Dennis Findley Olivia Price Matthew Shapiro Mick Sladic Jennifer Greene Karen Grizzard Mary Vought	Nadia Rauhala	Anita Ayres Tara Bethea Christine Germeyer Nia Harrison Jennifer Krajewski Teri Morgan Linh Nguyen Henry Street Penni Sweetenburg-Lee Kellie Vanella Jason Withers

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

Mr. Dennis Findley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Review of Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

The Chair greeted and welcomed Board members and staff. The Chair stated that there were three requests for virtual participation due to personal circumstances. The EC Committee must approve the electronic participation of board members. Mr. Findley asked if there were any objections to approving electronic participation for three Board members for personal reasons: Mr. Rob Matuzak, Mr. Cesar Dulanto, and Ms. Melinda Hanko. Hearing no objections, Mr. Findley called for a vote, and the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Approval of the September 11, 2024, Executive Committee Minutes

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the September 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Ms. Karen Grizzard made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE**, and Mr. Matthew Shapiro seconded it. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Board Member Attendance

Mr. Henry Street, Director of Administration, noted the attendance tracking attachment EC 3-1. Mr. Street said there were no immediate concerns, noting that we were in the 2nd quarter of a new state fiscal year.

Executive Director's Update and Questions

Ms. Teri Morgan briefly summarized key activities that had taken place in the last quarter. Ms. Morgan referenced EC 4-2 and reported on special initiatives and workgroup participation, policy work, agency administration and Board operations, communications, grants and

contracts, training programs, and alumni development. Ms. Morgan responded to committee members' questions pertaining to ICF/IID certifications and a meeting with Delegate Chris Obenshain.

Agency Fiscal Report

Mr. Henry Street gave a summary of the agency's fiscal report and provided the balances as of November 19, 2024. He stated that the balance reflects where we should be this time of year. Mr. Street noted that we are at 64% unspent and have two current federal awards (2024 and 2025) from which we are operating. There were no questions.

Review and Approval of Three Updated Board Policies and Procedures

Ms. Teri Morgan stated that Board policies should be reviewed regularly and updated as needed. Ms. Morgan said she is bringing three Board policies that have not been reviewed since 2014 to the Executive Committee: Policy 2.0: Membership and Selection, Policy 5.0: Board Officials, and Policy 7.0: Meetings. Ms. Morgan stated that attachment EC 5 provides recommended updates to these policies, highlighted in yellow. Ms. Morgan reviewed each policy and provided an overview of the updates, which primarily relate to ensuring the policies are consistent with current practice and Board bylaws. Questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Dennis Findley, Chair, asked if there was any further discussion, and after hearing none, he called for a motion to present the revised Board policies to the full Board for approval. Mr. Mick Slavic made a **MOTION to APPROVE**, and Ms. Karen Grizzard seconded it. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Committee Agendas

Committee chairs Ms. Jennifer Greene, Ms. Karen Grizzard, and Mr. Matthew Shapiro provided a brief overview of committee meeting agendas.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mick Sladic made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Karen Grizzard seconded the **MOTION**. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Board Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024 Meeting Attendance



Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Marcus Allen Ann Bevan (Katie Morris) Kristie Bowie-Young Brandon Cassady Allison Coles-Johnson Tim Capoldo Conner Cummings Parthy Dinora (Kayla Brody) Cesar Delanto III (virtually) Cathy Edwards Dennis Findley Adiran Frierson Jennifer Greene Karen Grizzard James Hall Melinda Hanko (virtually) Samantha Hollins Kyle Jones Amaan Karim Jeffrey Katz Richard Kriner Thomas Leach Amber Lee Rachel Loria Rob Matuszak (virtually) Rick Mitchell (Isaac Crisp) Deanna Parker Lindsay Pearse Cynthia Pettus Olivia Price Eric Raff Melanie Rice Erika Rogers Shay Ruff Matthew Shapiro Nicholas Sladic Sarah Taylor Mary Vought	Jen Kelly Nadia Rauhala	Anita Ayres Tara Bethea Christine Germeyer Nia Harrison Brittany Hughes Jennifer Krajewski Teri Morgan Linh Nguyen Henry Street Penni Sweetenburg-Lee Kellie Vanella Jason Withers

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities met at the Short Pump Hilton Hotel in Richmond, Virginia, on December 4, 2024.

The Chair, Dennis Findley, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He greeted and welcomed Board members and staff. Mr. Findley acknowledged three new Board members and welcomed them to the Board.

The Chair informed Board members that the Executive Committee approved virtual participation for three Board members, Mr. Rob Matuzak, Mr. Cesar Dulanto, and Ms. Melinda Hanko, due to personal circumstances. Mr. Findley welcomed the Board members who participated via Zoom.

The Chair reviewed the housekeeping notes.

Introductions

The Chair asked Board members and staff to introduce themselves. He asked Board members to include their names, where they live, and the seats they fill, and asked agency reps to include what their agency does. Mr. Findley acknowledged that we are at the end of 2024 and asked members to share if anything of note occurred this year.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked whether there were any changes to the September 11, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Tim Capoldo noted that his name was misspelled. No other changes were noted. The Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE**. Ms. Karen Grizzard made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes, and Ms. Rachel Loria seconded. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The Board received no public comment.

Board Member Input on the State Plan Development Process

Ms. Nia Harrison, Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, gave a brief overview of the previous State Plan Development process. Ms. Harrison discussed the process of developing the current State Plan by using town halls, virtual meetings, and surveys to get input regarding the State Plan. Ms. Harrison stated that a Board member retreat will be held on September 9-10, 2025, to discuss goals, objectives, and activities. Questions were asked and answered regarding staff reaching out to other states to learn about their State Plan development process and different ways to get feedback from citizens.

Presentation: The Arc of Northern Virginia, Arc2Independence App, Melissa Heifetz, Ashely Africa-Osborne, and Ashley Schalick

Ms. Melissa Heifer, Executive Director for Independent Living, gave a presentation on their new App, Arc2Independence. Ms. Heifer stated that this App is meant to serve people in the

metropolitan Washington area with developmental disabilities. Ms. Ashley Osborne gave an overview of the Arc2independence App, designed to help people with developmental disabilities with everyday living, including public safety, transportation, and employment. The App assists with skills, lessons, and tools with step-by-step guidance. Ms. Ashley Scalic discussed the App's main features and stated that it has large text, audio, and screen reader accessibility and is easy to navigate for people with developmental disabilities. Questions were asked and answered.

Presentation: SSDI Dennis Findley, Board Chair, and Sara Cariano, Department of Medical Assistance Services

Mr. Dennis Findley, Board Chair, presented his experience during the past six years advocating for a solution for the "SSDI Penalty" on behalf of his son. Mr. Findley discussed the challenges his adult son, who receives SSDI, faces in being employed and earning income while maintaining his Medicaid eligibility and Medicaid waiver. Mr. Findley summarized a timeline of the significant time and advocacy work he endured before achieving success with passing the SSDI income disregard during the 2024 session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Ms. Sara Cariano, Division Director, Eligibility Policy & Outreach, with the Department of Medical Assistance Services, reviewed the Social Security Disability Income disregard for Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver recipients. Her review included an overview of eligibility criteria for the DD waivers, the SSDI disregard legislative mandate, the implementation timeline, and the impact on the "Disabled Adult Child" population. Questions were asked and answered.

Lunch Break

The Chair asked for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting for lunch and committee meetings. Ms. Melanie Rice made the **MOTION** to adjourn, and Ms. Rachel Loria seconded the **MOTION**. The Chair adjourned the meeting at noon.

Reconvene

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. and stated that we would proceed with standing committee reports.

Standing Committee Reports

Report of the Advocacy, Outreach, and Training Committee: Ms. Jennifer Greene, Chair of the Committee, provided the AOT report. Ms. Greene reported that after introductions, she gave a summary of the executive committee meeting. Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee shared that the Training & Alumni Development Programs unit is now fully staffed. Ms. Kellie Vanella has been hired as the part-time (P-14) Training Programs Coordinator and will provide program support for YLA and PIP. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee provided updates on the Board's three training programs. Ms. Greene shared that they had a fabulous presentation provided by self-advocates. The presentation sparked great discussion and engagement from committee members.

See AOT meeting minutes for additional details.

Report of the Investment Committee: Mr. Matthew Shapiro, Chair of the Investment Committee, provided the report.

Mr. Shapiro provided a brief overview of the committee's discussion, including current grants, and noted that all the grants were on track. Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Withers solicited ideas from committee members on future meeting topics. Mr. Withers advised he would check to see if any grantees could present on their grant projects to either the Investment Committee or the Full Board during the February 2025 meeting.

See the IC meeting minutes for more details.

Report of the Policy Advisory Committee: Ms. Karen Grizzard, Chair of the Committee, provided the PAC report.

Ms. Grizzard stated that she provided an overview of the Executive Committee meeting. The committee reviewed and approved the September 11, 2024, minutes. The committee received an interesting presentation from DMAS on the Medicaid Works program. Virginia's Medicaid Works program is underutilized compared to other states and DMAS plans to do additional training and outreach. Ms. Jennifer Krajewski provided an update on the Board assessments and staff liaison activities. The committee also reviewed a plain language version of the Board policy values.

See PAC meeting minutes for additional details.

Review and Approval of Three Updated Board Policies

Mr. Dennis Findley, Chair, asked Ms. Teri Morgan to review the three updated Board policies the Executive Committee approved to present to the Full Board for approval.

Ms. Teri Morgan referred Board members to EC 5 and said that the three Board policies she is presenting have not been reviewed since 2014. The three policies are 1) Policy 2.0: Membership and Selection, 2) Policy 5.0: Board Officials, and 3) Policy 7.0: Meetings.

Ms. Morgan stated that recommended updates to these policies are highlighted in yellow. Ms. Morgan briefly reviewed each policy and provided an overview of the updates, which primarily relate to ensuring the policies are consistent with current practice and Board bylaws.

Mr. Dennis Findley, Chair, asked if there was any discussion, and after hearing none, he called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the revised policies coming out of the Executive Committee. Ms. Samantha Hollins made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE**. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Other Business & Adjourn

There was no other business. The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas Leach made the **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Brandon Cassady seconded the **MOTION**. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

AOT Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Allison Coles-Johnson Cathy Edwards Cesar Delanto, III (V) Conner Cummings Cynthia Pettus Jennifer Greene Olivia Price Rachel Loria Robert Matuszak (V) Shay Ruff	Jen Kelly Melinda Hanko Nadia Rauhala	Anita Ayres Brittany Hughes Christine Germeyer Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee Kellie Vanella
	Guests	
	Natasha Cooper - Presenter (V) Sharon Cummings	
		(V) - Virtual Attendance

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

A meeting of the Advocacy, Outreach and Training Committee was held at the Hilton Hotel, Short Pump on December 4, 2024. Ms. Jennifer Greene, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m. A quorum was met. The Chair asked for introductions from the attendees.

Executive Committee Update

Ms. Greene gave a summary from the Executive Committee meeting. It included an update on funds for broadband access, the HB888 workgroup being dismantled, staff participation in 988 and Crisis Services, causes for the nursing home crisis, and staff conducting a National Information Access Champions webinar. The Chair encouraged everyone to explore the VBPD website.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jennifer Greene called for approval of the September 2024 meeting minutes. Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the September 2024 AOT meeting minutes, and Ms. Shay Ruff, seconded. The September 2024 meeting minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

Training Programs

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee shared news that the Training & Alumni Development Programs Unit is now fully staffed. Ms. Kellie Vanella has been hired as the part-time (P-14) Training Programs Coordinator and will provide program support for YLA and PIP. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee further explained that the Training & Alumni Development Program Unit staff is cross-trained so that all program support staff are aware and exposed to all program administrative processes in the event of unexpected absences. Therefore, the Training & Alumni Development Program Coordinator will continue to work with both Training Programs in addition to providing administrative support to the Alumni Development Program. Ms. Vanella identified as a self-advocate and is excited to play a supportive role for the VBPD.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee continued with her presentation. She acknowledged Ms. Christine Germeyer for the PowerPoint she was using to present the Quarterly AOT Report and indicated YLA is scheduled to occur July 14 to 17, 2025. YLA will be at Virginia State University. Currently Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee is working with DARS Procurement and VBPD Administration to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additionally, Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee acknowledged Ms. Anita Ayres and the Communications Team for their supportive work in revising the 2024-2025 PIP and YLA Applications and Marketing Materials to be released in December 2024. She further shared that this is the first time that both Training Program Applications can be completed online. Previously, the applications were available online, but applicants were required to download and fill them out. Thanks to the Communications Unit and the Website Contractor, YLA and PIP applications can be filled out electronically and submitted. She noted the YLA application deadline is March 28, 2025, and the PIP application deadline is March 14, 2025. AOT Board Member Ms. Cynthia Pettus asked about the age range for YLA participants. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee explained the program is designed for individuals with disabilities currently in high school, who have not graduated.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee continued by explaining that PIP is a seven-month commitment which will kick off in September 2025 in a hybrid format (three In-Person and four Zoom sessions) through April 2026. Capitol Day will be held in November, via Zoom. PIP will be held at the Delta Hotel in Richmond. Finalizing the MOU is underway.

On September 28, Train the Trainer (TTT) was conducted with Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee serving as the Facilitator, alongside Co-Lead Facilitators, Mr. Garrett Brumfield, Ms. Kennedy Rose, and Ms. Alexis Smith; and included Co-Facilitators Mr. Alex Burns, Mr. Judah Dowd, and Ms. Carly Dolan, all of whom are graduates of a VBPD Training Program. TTT is only open to self-advocates.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee spoke about the success of the Training Alumni (TA), its presenters, and topics. She pointed out the number of registrants, attendees, and Facebook views which highlight the interest in each topic. Ms. Nia Harrison was recognized by Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee for her work in capturing and evaluating the data for the Training Unit. Continuing Statewide Education was born out of a desire from Alumni wanting to stay engaged after completing their respective Training Programs.

To conclude the report, Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee shared photos of the TA Leadership Conference and wanted to Celebrate Our Own: Ms. Kristie Bowie-Young, Ms. Erika Rogers, Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson, Ms. Monica Wiley, Ms. Laquanta McClinton, and Ms. Janai Santiago, as actively engaged Alumni.

Ms. Jennifer Greene applauded Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee's accomplishments in developing the Training & Alumni Development Programs and thanked her staff for all the great work the unit is doing. Ms. Rachel Loria expressed appreciation for the TTT session done in September.

Communications

Ms. Anita Ayres referred everyone to the AOT-6 Communications Report provided in the board packet. She shared that Ms. Brittany Hughes designed the infographics for the Board assessments that can now be found on the VBPD website. Ms. Ayres indicated that a Spanish version of the assessments is available as well. Since the last board meeting, the VBPD Facebook page has increased its reach and grown by 100 new followers. The Communications Unit develops monthly content calendars that are used to strategize social media posts.

Ms. Ayres reported that her team is providing support on Information Access Champions; and have been working on the upcoming webinar scheduled for Tuesday, December 10. There is still time to register to attend the webinar by visiting the VBPD website. At the conclusion of her report, Ms. Ayres announced that in January, she will begin a VBPD-hosted training series for Health and Human Resources agencies on Writing in Clear and Plain Language. Ms. Shay Ruff thanked Communications for their work.

Peer-Mentorship & Self-Advocacy Presentations

Ms. Jennifer Greene invited the next presenter, AOT Board Member Mr. Conner Cummings to share his story. Mr. Cummings talked about his personal experiences being an individual relying on child support and the challenges he faced to create a bill. He attended many meetings and acknowledged Senator Favola's support before going to the General Assembly. He explained that his Mickey Mouse ears invoke confidence when he's in large and unfamiliar settings; specifically, when he is talking with Senators and Legislators.

Mr. Cummings has since created Conner's Law, a Curbside Voting law, and he has worked on a virtual participation law that allows individuals serving on boards and committees to attend virtually. He helped eliminate the Priority One Waiver Waitlist by working with Governor Youngkin. Mr. Cummings thanked the Arc of Northern Virginia and Ms. Lucy Beadnell who together are working on a bill that will allow people under guardianship the right to vote; and he would like to see better training for middle school students. He has been invited to serve on a national group that works to educate police, fire, and emergency service teams who encounter individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Mr. Cummings conveyed he will continue to advocate on behalf of and for individuals with disabilities.

Chairwoman Greene applauded Mr. Cummings. Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee asked Mr. Cummings when his advocacy journey began. He started in 2012. Ms. Rachel Loria announced that the disAbility Law Center has been involved in Mr. Cummings work, as well.

Next, AOT Board Member Mr. Cesar Dulanto III shared a presentation about his journey. He is a self-advocate from Gordonsville. He is affiliated with the Arc of North Central Virginia and is a student at Liberty University where he is majoring in Biblical Studies. Mr. Dulanto talked about his disability which makes it difficult to write with a pencil or type on a computer. As a young student, he was not provided a scribe assistant. It was there he realized he needed to advocate

for support in school. Since graduating high school, he has relied on the words of his therapist who said, “you have to plow the way.”

Mr. Dulanto shared two programs he believed were helpful in his journey to becoming a self-advocate: the I’m Determined Project and the Ally Alliance Program. He thanked Ms. Natasha Cooper and Ms. Shay Ruff who both provided support to him in his advocacy work. Ms. Ruff applauded Mr. Dulanto for being her first student in the Peer Mentoring Program. Now he works with Prince William Schools to help explain self-determination; and, he has been given opportunities to speak with students in his community. Mr. Dulanto encouraged everyone to “just do it” when it comes to advocacy, and conveyed it is important for advocacy to be done by individuals with disabilities.

AOT Board Member Ms. Shay Ruff followed with her presentation and spoke about the Peer Mentoring Service. She is the Lead Trainer at the Arc of Virginia and a credentialed Peer Mentor. Ms. Ruff and her colleague, Ms. Natasha Cooper, shared their slides about the program which began in 2016 through DBHDS and the Arc of Virginia. The Peer Mentoring System was designed for people on the DD Waiver or DD Waiver Waitlist. Ms. Ruff explained the process for peer mentors and peer mentees. Ms. Cooper encouraged Ms. Ruff to share her story to becoming a peer mentor.

Ms. Ruff defined her role as Peer Mentor which has led to friendships. Mentees work on goals for 60 hours which benefits mentors and mentees. There are a handful of workshops that are provided to the Mentors and there are 21 Mentors trained; 15 are active and have been hired by Mentees. Services can be provided virtually or in-person. Ms. Natasha Cooper shared the presentation platform and then provided a high-level overview of the program. Mentees are required to be 16 years of age or older, and Mentors must be 21 years of age or older and live within the community. Supports provided by the program includes socialization, employment, and independent living skills.

With five minutes remaining, Chairwoman Greene announced the full board would need to reconvene. Ms. Ruff expressed her appreciation for the Peer Mentoring System and told individuals who are interested in either role of Mentor or Mentee to contact Ms. Natasha Cooper.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rachel Loria made the **MOTION** to adjourn, and Ms. Shay Ruff **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** to adjourn at 2:26 p.m. carried unanimously.

Investment Committee Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Matthew Shapiro Marcus Allen Tim Capaldo Adrian Frierson James Hall Thomas Leach Rick Mitchell (Isaac Crisp) Mick Sladic Melanie Rice Richard Kriner Amaan Karim Jeff Katz Kristie Bowie-Young		Jason Withers

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

A meeting of the Investment Committee was held at the Hilton Hotel in Short Pump on December 4, 2024. Investment Committee Chair, Matthew Shapiro, called the meeting to order at 12:51 pm. Following a call to order, Mr. Shapiro had committee members, including staff, introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Shapiro asked if there were any questions/concerns with the September 2024 meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mr. Thomas Leach made a **MOTION** to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes, and Mr. Richard Kriner **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

Update on Customized Employment Project with DARS

Mr. Jason Withers, Grants & Contracts Administrator and Mr. Kriner provided a brief overview of the grant project with the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) on Customized Employment. Mr. Withers advised that staff to the Board had reviewed and approved the proposal application received from DARS on August 23, 2024, and have since made an award to the organization in the amount of \$339,680 (\$113,226 matching funds). Mr. Withers advised that the grant project began October 1, 2024, and will conclude on September 30, 2026.

Grants and Contracts Expenditure Monitoring

Mr. Withers provided updates on recent activities and expenditures regarding four grant projects: Expanding Capacity for Customized Employment Services to Virginians with Disabilities grant with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; Support Service

Provider (SSP) Pilot Project with the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH); Strengthening Self-Advocacy through the ALLY Alliance grant with The Arc of Virginia; and Bienvenidos Todos: Disability Inclusion grant with the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV). Mr. Withers noted that the projects were in a good place and spending funds appropriately and mentioned that ECVN and The Arc of Virginia would be submitting continuation proposal requests for Board consideration at the February 2024 Board meeting. He explained that submission of a continuation proposal is a requirement for all grantees whose projects exceed 12-months, to receive second year funding.

Update on Dental Care Project

Mr. Withers provided committee members with an additional update regarding the anticipated project with the VCU School of Dentistry. He advised that there have been additional construction delays with the dental clinic and VCU informed Board staff in mid-September of 2024 that they will likely have access to other funding (through Delta Dental). Mr. Withers informed committee members that VCU did not submit a proposal as anticipated in September but would revisit the conversation with Board staff later once construction is back on track.

Wrap-up & Potential Future Meeting Topics

Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Withers solicited ideas from committee members on future meeting topics. Mr. Withers advised he would check to see if any grantees would be able to come present on their grant projects to either the Investment Committee or the Full Board during the February 2025 meeting.

Mr. Withers also shared potential topics for future Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in 2025 and 2026, based on the Board's State Plan: Healthcare (Dentistry), Education (Pre-Employment Transition Services), Public Awareness (Educating the news media on people with disabilities), and Self-Advocacy. Some committee members expressed interest in revising the Board's previous RFP which focused on Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and additional discussion ensued.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Kayla Brody (for Parthy Dinora) Brandon Cassady Dennis Findley Karen Grizzard Samantha Hollins Kyle Jones Amber Lee Katie Morris (for Ann Bevan) Deanna Parker Lindsay Pearse Eric Raff Erika Rogers Sarah Taylor Mary Vought		Nia Harrison Jen Krajewski Teri Morgan Linh Thi Nguyen

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

A meeting of Policy Advisory Committee was held at Hilton Hotel at Short Pump on December 4, 2024. The Chair, Ms. Karen Grizzard called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m. Members gave introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Grizzard asked members to review the September 11 meeting minutes. Ms. Katie Morris made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Erika Rogers **SECONDED**. The motion was passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Update

Ms. Jen Krajewski provided a report from the Executive Committee meeting. She reported that the Board is working with Virginia Commonwealth University and VACIL to obtain Department of Housing and Community Development funding for digital literacy training. This training would push forward the Board’s policy assessment recommendations to reduce barriers for individuals’ access to telehealth. The Board welcomes the new Training Program Coordinator Kellie Vanella as a new staff member. Board staff continue their work on the State Strategic Plan and federal annual reporting. Finally, the full Board will vote on three updated Board policies in the afternoon session.

Presentation: Medicaid Works

Ms. Dana Thierry and Ms. Alex Meader from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) presented on the program Medicaid Works. Medicaid Works was authorized by the Appropriations Act of 2006. However, Virginia's Medicaid Works program continues to be underutilized due to lack of awareness that the program exists. Enrollment into the program increased after DMAS provided training to Virginia Department of Social Services staff. DMAS plans to provide training to community services board staff and do additional outreach through the DMAS website or a television commercial.

Ms. Thierry and Ms. Meader emphasized that Medicaid Works enables a person with a disability to work and earn a higher income while still being enrolled in Medicaid. They explained eligibility limitations regarding age and finances, Work Incentive (WIN) accounts, disability determinations, Medicaid Works coverage timelines and required documentation. They also explained that a person who has a Developmental Disability (DD) waiver can enroll in the Medicaid Works program for 180 days as a trial period, during which the person's DD waiver slot will be held in case the person decides they would like to exit the program and return to having a DD waiver.

Members asked clarifying questions and about enrollment numbers. Ms. Thierry and Ms. Meader provided their contact information for additional questions after the meeting.

Update on Assessments

Ms. Krajewski informed members of her progress on the 2025 policy assessments: 1) Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) within the School System and 2) Competitive, Integrated Employment Post-High School. She identified barriers which prevent student access to and success in Pre-ETS, including parents refusing to sign consent forms for Pre-ETS services; lack of training and understanding of teachers' roles, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) counselors' roles and transition counselors; need for additional Pre-ETS counselors and providers and a general need for more collaboration. Barriers to competitive, integrated employment after high school include lack of career exploration before high school graduation, gaps in supports after graduation and loss of transportation supports after graduation.

Members discussed these barriers. Ms. Krajewski stated that some parents are uncomfortable with providing information such as social security numbers. Ms. Rogers posited that parental refusal to sign Pre-ETS forms could also be due to cultural stigma. Regarding lack of training, Ms. Deanna Parker proposed that information for transition coordinators become standardized. Ms. Samantha Hollins stated that this standardized information and guidance already exists, and that people need to be trained to use these existing resources. Members continued to make other comments, including need for guidance on where to spend Pre-ETS federal funding, lack of state funding, building provider capacity, interest in transportation grants for local communities, and need for community and local business involvement. Ms. Parker requested

that DARS staff present on the Pre-ETS program at an upcoming committee meeting to explain the program and dispel myths.

Update on Liaison Activities

Ms. Krajewski reported that Board staff attended 21 different workgroups, including the HB 888/SB 176 workgroup on crisis situations. Ms. Teri Morgan also sent a letter to Winchester General Registrar regarding concerns about the information provided during General Election Officer training.

Review of Board Policy Values

Ms. Krajewski informed members that Board staff would like to update the Board Policy Values on the website into a clear/plain language version. The updated language will not require an official vote, but committee member feedback is requested.

Adjournment

Ms. Grizzard thanked members for their attendance and engagement. She adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.