

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010

(October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010)

Submitted to ADD: December 22, 2010

Approved by ADD: April 11, 2011



**VIRGINIA BOARD FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

This report
may be found under
State Plan & Reports
at

www.vaboard.org

or may be obtained by contacting the

VIRGINIA BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1100 Bank Street, 7th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-0016 (Voice or TTY)
(800) 846-4464 (Toll-free Voice or TTY)
(804) 786-1118 (Fax)

info@vbpd.Virginia.gov.

Copies are also available in alternate formats upon request.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction	1
II. Council Identification	1
III. Update: Comprehensive Review and Analysis.....	1
IV. Life Goal Areas of Emphasis, Performance Measures & Council Progress in Achieving Goals.....	3
A. Employment	5
B. Education & Early Intervention.....	7
C. Housing.....	8
D. Health.....	9
E. Transportation.....	10
F. Quality Assurance	12
G. Formal and Informal Community Supports.....	14
H. Cross-Cutting Activities.....	16
V. Assessing Consumer Satisfaction with Council Services.....	19
VI. Reporting Year (FFY2010) Expenditures.....	21
VII. Dissemination of the Program Performance Report.....	22
VIII. Network Collaboration: Selected Issues	23
IX. Conclusion.....	24

I. Introduction

Under the federal, **Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act)**, each state and territory of the United States has a designated **Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council)**. The **Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board)** serves as Virginia's DD Council and, to comply with the requirements of the DD Act, must operate under a **Five Year State Plan (FYSP)** which is submitted to the federal **Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD)** for monitoring purposes. Each year, the Board must update its FYSP as needed to meet changing conditions or needs within the state and submit it to the ADD.

In addition, each state's DD Council must submit an annual **Program Performance Report (PPR)** to the ADD documenting the outcomes of activities authorized and funded by the DD Act and guided by the goals and objectives of the FYSP during the previous federal fiscal year. The PPR is submitted to the ADD in an electronic format which requires specific identification of DD Council projects and activities, performance measures and corresponding goals. The ADD uses these state reports to inform Congress and others of the outcomes achieved by DD Councils and their community partners to meet the goals of the DD Act.

This report, covering the fourth year of the Board's 2007-2011 FYSP, is a reader friendly version of the PPR submitted to the ADD by the Board for **Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (FFY2010)**, which covers the period of **October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010**. In addition to the data already submitted to the ADD electronically, descriptive text has been added to make the data more understandable and to provide supplemental context and qualitative descriptions of the Board's activities. (The reader may wish to visit the ADD website at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add for more information about current activities and reports for all state and territorial DD Councils.)

II. Council Identification

Each DD Council is required to be affiliated with an agency of its state or territorial government known as its **Designated State Agency (DSA)**. A DD Council may be a private non-profit organization, a subdivision of a larger public agency, or a separate public agency. The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) is authorized under *Code of Virginia* §51.5-30 to serve as its own DSA and functions as a distinct state agency within the Health and Human Resources Secretariat.

ADD requires each DD Council to designate an official contact person for the state in all matters pertaining to the Five Year State Plan and Program Performance Report. Heidi Lawyer, Executive Director of the Board, serves in that capacity for Virginia. Further information on the statutory authority and composition of the Board may be obtained at the Board's website or by contacting the office directly.

III. Update: Comprehensive Review and Analysis

Significant areas of concern affecting persons with developmental disabilities were identified through staff monitoring of state agency initiatives and reports and other research related to issues detailed in the Board's 2008 *Biennial Assessment of the Disability Service System*. This information both apprised and

guided the Board's activities during this reporting year. The following is a summary of the Board's updated system review for **FFY2010** which has been a noteworthy year, both for the serious fiscal challenges resulting from the growing national recession and for the important service system changes that have been made or are under development.

Major system problems negatively impacting individuals with developmental disabilities remain unchanged during FFY2010 in Virginia: service fragmentation (multiple, highly compartmentalized services); lack of a dedicated funding stream for individuals with DD; limited person-centered services; inadequate funding for publicly administered or operated programs and services; limited scope, accessibility and reliability of transportation; lack of affordable, accessible housing; and inadequate employment opportunities. Some agencies do not have wait lists, so assessing need is difficult. Virginia is still among the lowest five states in per capita community funding.

While disability-based service silos continue, a very positive step forward was achieved when Virginia designated one state agency to serve as the single agency responsible for services to individuals with any developmental disability (DD). Effective July 1, 2009, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services became the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), assuming planning and coordination responsibility for autism and other DD services. However, no funding was provided by the legislature for services.

The Virginia Alliance for Community (DD Network, Arc of VIRGINIA, others) was partially successful in its 2008-2009 advocacy with the Administration and the General Assembly for redirection of capital outlay funds to rebuild two state Training Centers (ICFs-MR). Pursuant to the 2009 General Assembly decisions, Virginia began rebuilding one Training Center in FFY2010 (reducing beds from 200 to 75) and renovating another (reducing it from 450 to 300 beds). In FFY2010 planning to develop community housing for Training Center residents with the 2009 capitol outlay allocation (a first!) of \$18.5 million began; and building is expected in FFY2011. A factor in Virginia's commitment to rebuild or renovate Training Centers is family resistance to community placements.

Since FFY2007, Virginia initiatives for true system change have been underway. Significant interagency collaboration continues for the Real Choice System Transformation Grant (STG) and the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative. Both projects, which have Board and extensive stakeholder involvement, aim to improve community long-term services, supports and access for individuals with DD and other disabilities. Under STG, DBHDS continued statewide training on person-centered practices to staff of Community Service Boards, Training Centers and community providers. An STG workgroup provided ongoing review and input on state regulations to incorporate person-centered language. Under MFP, however, budget cuts lead to cancellation of planned expansion of certain waiver services to all waivers. So far, MFP has transitioned 174 individuals with disabilities from institutions to communities.

Other system change initiatives included:

- The Virginia Department for Aging continued efforts for its No Wrong Door initiative.
- Based on regulatory change in recent years, regional Planning District Commissions must specifically address the needs of persons who are elderly or have disabilities in their comprehensive plans.

- The Board participated in drafting a revised MR Waiver (re-titled Intellectual Disability or ID Waiver) as part of the state's reapplication process. The Waiver application and revised regulations now include person-centered language.

A large fiscal influx is needed to build community infrastructure, expand services and create predictable waiting lists, but this is unlikely to occur during the recession. Medicaid still covers dental services for children, but not adults. Virginia law mandates a balanced budget; there were two budget cuts in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009 and more cuts are expected in SFY2011 and SFY2012. The growth of various wait lists is evidenced in the table below. In order to balance the budget, the Governor cut funding for 100 new MR Waiver slots in SFY2010. There have been no new DD Waiver slots in several years. However, in response to advocates, the Virginia General Assembly requested and received a formal report that described a plan with cost estimates to eliminate Waiver wait lists by SFY2020. The rate of state funding compared to the rate of waiting list growth assured that the Commonwealth will continue to lag significantly behind identified need. Despite significant growth in the DD Waiver waiting list, no additional funding was appropriated for DD waiver slots other than the very limited number targeted individuals leaving facilities through the Money Follows the Person initiative.

Service	Number on Wait List	
	FFY 2009	FFY 2010
MR/ID Waiver	4,955	5,393
DD Waiver	793	993
DRS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services	1,785	0

The Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), using federal stimulus funds, was able to eliminate the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) wait list in SFY2010.

An ongoing workforce issue statewide is the need for more nurses, direct care staff, personal assistants, and rehab workers. Service demand exceeds staff availability, especially in rural areas, and reimbursement rates remain low. Budget cuts eliminated plans to implement workforce initiatives prioritized by the 2008 Governor's Health Care Reform Commission.

The lack of adequate housing and transportation creates a barrier to community inclusion and participation for individuals with DD, even for those who have HCBS Waiver slots. Demand for affordable, accessible housing grows as the gap widens between housing costs and income levels of persons with DD. Inadequate, inconsistent planning and coordination regarding service needs, as well as public perceptions and myths relating to people with severe DD, further restrict community living options.

IV. Life Goal Areas of Emphasis, Performance Measures and Council Progress in Achieving Goals

Under the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) is responsible for undertaking advocacy, capacity building, and system change activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer- and family-centered, consumer- and family-directed,

comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance. The DD Act recommends approaches which DD Councils may use in achieving the goals of the act and their individual state plans. These include: coalition building; coordination of services; demonstration of direct services; educating communities; informing policy makers; interagency collaboration; outreach; technical assistance; system design, redesign and barrier removal; and training.

During FFY2010, the Board utilized all of these strategies, either individually or in varying combinations, in different activity areas to achieve demonstrable successes in all funded activity areas. The goals and objectives of the Five Year State Plan, as well as the Program Performance Report, are organized around nine life goals— also known as **Areas of Emphasis**— which are specifically identified in the DD Act. Board activities funded by the DD Act and guided by its FYSP are not required to include all of these life goal areas, but activities must address one or more of them. The following list identifies the Areas of Emphasis and their definitions as specified by the DD Act. Those areas addressed by Board initiatives in FFY2010 are identified by *italics*:

Employment: Individuals get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities, and needs.

Transportation: People with disabilities have affordable and accessible transportation to meet their needs as they live independently and productively in their communities.

Housing: Adults choose where and with whom they live.

Formal and Informal Community Supports: Individuals are valued, participating members of their communities.

Quality Assurance: Individuals have control, choice, and flexibility in services and supports they receive.

Cross Cutting Issues: Council-level initiatives that have wide systems change impact and cut across several areas of emphasis.

Education and Early Intervention: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.

Child Care: Children with disabilities have access to accessible and appropriate day care services as well as an adequate range of choices to support their developmental and socialization needs. (The Board addresses Child Care as a part of its Education and Early Intervention activities.)

Health: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.

Recreation: Children with disabilities and their families are able to participate in meaningful and inclusive recreational activities in their communities.

The overarching **State Plan Goals** for Board projects and activities remain constant throughout the five-year period (2007 – 2011). These seven goals encompass multiple objectives under the various Areas of Emphasis. The Board's goals are:

- Promote strategies that support moving people with disabilities from institutions to communities of their choice.

- Promote cross-cutting local, regional, and statewide collaboration to build welcoming and accessible communities.
- Positively influence and impact public policy through coordinated initiatives that promote meaningful inclusion in all aspects of community life.
- Engage in advocacy and outreach to educate communities with the outcome of eliminating barriers that result in discrimination against people with disabilities.
- Collaborate to ensure an innovative disability services system through partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and public agencies to leverage widespread support for full inclusion.
- Be a catalyst for self determination, choice, and policy influence through leadership and advocacy development.
- Promote innovative approaches to integrated employment of people with developmental and other disabilities.

The following sections of this report detail the **Areas of Emphasis** addressed by the Board in FFY2010. Under each Area of Emphasis, Board activities (which may be grants, post-grants, contracts, sponsored programs or liaison activities) are listed, and the collective outcomes (or federal performance measures) are provided. **Post-grant outcomes** are reported during the FFY for each project which continued at least part of their activities without Board funding. Brief summaries of the strategies used and progress made in achieving the State Plan goals for the reporting year are included. DD Councils are required to identify whether the FFY2010 goals for each Area of Emphasis were **met, partially met or not met**; and, if not met, to describe the factor(s) that impeded achievement.

A. Employment

Employment activities of the Board during FFY2010 emphasized projects which expanded integrated employment for adults with disabilities through customized employment and for students in transition through technology supports.

Employment Projects in FFY2010

Grant: Creating Opportunities for Persons with the Most Significant Disabilities through Customized Employment

Grantee: Chesterfield Employment Services, Chesterfield County CSB

DD Funds Expended: \$6,814

Project Description: To develop and implement a customized employment program and increase integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Grant: Using 21st Century Technology and Skills to Promote Employment Success

Grantee: Phillips Program

DD Funds Expended: \$10,456

Project Description: To support transitioning youth with developmental and other disabilities in accessing career pathways and participating in integrated employment.

Post-Grant: Virginia State Government Employment Initiative

Former Grantee: Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation & Research Training Center on Workplace Supports

Project Description: To increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in state agencies.

Employment Outcomes in FFY2010

Through the employment projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 32 adults with disabilities have jobs of their choice;
- ◆ 11 businesses/employers employed adults with disabilities;
- ◆ 1 employment program was created/improved;
- ◆ 15 staff (from Chesterfield Employment Services and Chesterfield County Public Schools) were trained in customized employment;
- ◆ \$28,031 was leveraged for employment.

Employment: FFY2010 Goals were partially met.

In FFY2010, Chesterfield Employment Services established a Customized Employment (CE) program in Chesterfield County. Staff was trained in CE with ongoing technical assistance provided by VCU RRTC. Staff worked in small teams with each of the five participants. Employment placements planned for FFY2010 were not met, although they are expected in FFY11. Chesterfield Employment Services is finding placement difficult, given the economy and also the significant disabilities of their participants. However, establishing the program has given them more tools to assist the participants.

The 21st Century Technology grant did not meet employment placements for FFY2010, but expects outcomes in FFY2011. The grant created a technology matrix and career assessment process incorporating 21st century technology hardware and software, based on Universal Design for Learning, to support students in transition. Seven students were assessed and participated as volunteers in community-based jobs with various supports. Devices, such as I-Pads and I-Touch, and specialized hardware and software were used to increase workplace independence.

The State Employment Initiative project, through the post-grant activity, exceeded the outcomes expected for FFY2010. The project garnered better than expected results in placing individuals with developmental and other disabilities in integrated employment and most were placed in full-time positions. Thirty-one placements in 11 state agencies included: lab assistant, cafeteria assistant, dishwasher, billing specialist, web designer, program support tech, fiscal tech and biomedical engineer.

Additionally, the second year reporting of annual data from state agencies on recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities (per Governor's Executive Directive #8) showed increases in:

- ◆ the number of staff trained in disability awareness;
- ◆ the number of accommodations provided to employees with disabilities; and
- ◆ the number of qualified applicants with disabilities who received job offers.

Part of the Medicaid Waiver Training grant (see Formal & Informal Community Supports section) included incorporating changes into the Waiver workshops for mentors to address issues regarding employment, day support and residential supports. One mentor's technical assistance and support led to 1 job placement; an individual receiving waiver services was able to change from day support to desired supported employment.

B. Education & Early Intervention

In FFY2010, the Board conducted liaison activities among the education community. Advocacy efforts by the Board in the legislature and through public comment, particularly on expansion of services for individuals with Autism Spectrum disorders and opportunities for youth to transition to higher education were core activities this year.

Education & Early Intervention Projects in FFY2010

Liaison Activity: Education Public Policy Work

Education & Early Intervention Outcomes in FFY2010

Through a community supports project, the Medicaid Waiver Training & Information grant, the following federal performance measure was achieved:

- ◆ 7 children have the services and supports needed to reach developmental goals

Education: FFY2010 Goals were partially met.

The Board planned that one educational policy would be improved this year which was not achieved. However, the Board had multiple liaison activities, building strong relationships in the education community on topics such as: expansion of services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities; and opportunities for youth to transition to higher education. The Board advocated for improvements in transition services through a state council and supported conferences where Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) alumni spoke on transition issues for youth with DD. The Board continues to strive to successfully impact public policy by supporting the voices of individuals and family members.

There were unexpected educational outcomes achieved through the Medicaid Waiver Training & Information grant. This grant provided technical assistance and support to parents and families of children and adolescents to ensure that they obtained the services needed to thrive in the community. Community mentors were effective in helping seven children receive educational supports in this grant.

C. Housing

During FFY2010 the Board worked to help develop long-term strategies to increase accessible, affordable housing options and opportunities for people with disabilities. The Board successfully continued its partnership with other state agencies and participated in housing conferences to enhance housing options.

Housing Projects in FFY2010

Contract: EasyLiving Home Replication in Virginia

Contractee: Virginia Accessible Housing Solutions, Inc.

DD Funds Expended: \$9,528

Project Description: To promote and expand the EasyLiving Home (ELH) program in Virginia and educate the building community on the importance of adopting visitability and universal design as guiding principles in construction and renovations.

Liaison Activity: Housing Public Policy Work

Housing Outcomes in FFY2010

Through housing projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 1 individual had home of choice;
- ◆ 1 individual moved from a congregate setting to home in community;
- ◆ 1 housing policy was created/improved;
- ◆ 3 units of affordable, accessible housing were made available to people with disabilities;
- ◆ 1 person facilitated home ownership/rental;
- ◆ 219 people were trained in housing (includes realtors and builders); and
- ◆ \$12,500 was leveraged for housing.

Housing: FFY2010 Goals were partially met.

The Council continues to play a leadership role in the EasyLiving Home (ELH) public-private partnership. A new partner, the Virginia Association of Realtors (VAR), will support the education of realtors on the benefits of Universal Design (UD) and the inclusion of UD features in MLS listings. Sixty-seven realtors, builders and constituents were trained in accessible housing and universal design as part of VA's ELH program's outreach and awareness activities. A VAR representative joined the ELH Board, bringing new insight to realtors and facilitating improvements to the MLS system to better display accessible and *visitability* features. A state Habitat for Humanity affiliate developed an accessible, visitable home, and two additional ELHs were certified in the state. Virginia Habitat for Humanity is developing a "model" ELH Habitat Home through one of its affiliates.

The post-grant activity of the Transportation and Housing Alliance (see Transportation section for project details) implementation grants and training have positively impacted planning processes on the

local level helping to ensure that housing and transportation planning are unified and accurately reflect need of people with disabilities. The Council projected 3 policy/program outcomes for FFY2010. While the Council has had significant influence in the direction of housing for individuals with DD, specific policy or program improvements could not be counted. Fifty people, including the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association members and the Governor's Housing Conference participants, were trained on using the Toolkit as a comprehensive planning tool. The Virginia Housing Development Authority contributed \$5,000 to the ELH program to improve Toolkit compatibility with 2010 census data. The Toolkit received many accolades from state and local planners and policymakers and is expected to have a continued impact in 2011.

The Council has continued to take a leadership role in policy discussions on workgroups and in developing critical alliances focused on ensuring that people with disabilities can move from institutions to communities of their choice. Council, in coordination with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and the Disability Opportunity Fund—the only Community Development Financial Institution in the nation devoted to the development of housing for persons with disabilities—helped to organize a housing summit bringing together senior staff from state and local agencies, bankers, realtors, service providers and national housing experts to discuss how Virginia can develop housing options in the community for people with disabilities. A total of 102 individuals were trained on creative financing models for community housing and innovative approaches that acknowledge the disability community as a viable market.

Although there were no outcomes projected in FFY2010, a policy outcome was achieved. The Council has advocated for the separation of housing and services, both in its 2008 *Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System* and its work developing a legislatively mandated (Item 315 Z) housing study. The State Board for DBHDS adopted Policy 4023, which emphasizes the importance of this separation and their intention to move in this direction.

Through the Medicaid Waiver Training & Information grant (see Formal/Informal Community Supports section for project details), mentors provided technical assistance & support to enable 1 adult with a disability to move from the family home to an apartment and obtain Waiver services. Additionally, ongoing monitoring of post-grant activity for the Outreach to Children At-Risk of Institutionalization (see Formal/Informal Community Supports section for project details) showed that technical assistance provided to parents and families of youth in institutions led to the successful transition of 1 child to live with family.

D. Health

Health activities of the Board during FFY2010 emphasized projects which expanded dental healthcare for adults with developmental disabilities.

Health Projects in FFY2010

Grant: Integrated Dental Service Initiative

Grantee: Northern Virginia Training Center

DD Funds Expended: \$35,390

Project Description: To build regional capacity, capability and commitment for the provision of dental health services to people with developmental disabilities.

Health Outcomes in FFY2010

Through housing projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 65 people with disabilities have needed health services;
- ◆ 1 health program was created;
- ◆ 2 people improved health services;
- ◆ 166 people, including adults with disabilities and dental professionals, were trained in health services; and
- ◆ \$28,818 were leveraged for health services.

Health: FFY2010 Goals were partially met.

The Integrated Dental Services Initiative grant has promoted availability of dental care and hygiene training for dental professionals and individuals with developmental disabilities in their community. The grantee conducted an initial workshop for 30 dental professionals and healthcare providers. The dental professionals received CEUs from the American Dental Society for the training. Eleven of the trained dentists participated in dental outreach from which 64 adults with developmental disabilities received dental services and hygiene training, in addition to 27 family members and 3 healthcare professionals. The grantee overestimated the number of individuals that would be treated and trained in proper dental hygiene and would receive follow up dental care; however, the target was partially met. Dentists trained at the workshop have committed to follow-up care for the individuals at their community offices. The grantee is working in collaboration with VCU Health Systems-School of Dentistry on a special needs dentistry internship program. Feedback and evaluations from the workshops and health care provided have been positive. This grant has the potential for replication.

In addition, through the Medicaid Waiver Training & Information grant, community mentors provided technical assistance and support that enabled the parents of a child with a disability to obtain needed prescription medications.

E. Transportation

A fundamental need for individuals with disabilities is reliable, adequate, and accessible transportation. As noted in the 2008 *Biennial Assessment*, transportation is essential to both personal and financial independence as well as quality of life. The activities of the Virginia Board during FFY2010 again focused on: supporting expansion, coordination, and improvement of transportation statewide; and

strengthening local and regional transportation planning and coordination to enable full community inclusion for people with disabilities.

Transportation Projects in FFY2010

The description below includes project name, project administrator, starting and ending dates, and total actual or projected expenditure by the Board for the life of the project:

Post-Grant: Transportation and Housing Alliance

Grantee: Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Project Description: To develop a coordinated approach within localities or a region for improved planning of accessible and affordable housing and transportation.

Transportation Outcomes in FFY2010

Through housing projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 137 people with disabilities have transportation services;
- ◆ 49 transportation policies/programs were created or improved;
- ◆ 3 people facilitated transportation; and
- ◆ 46 people trained in transportation.

Transportation: Goal was met.

The Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) post-grant activity was successful in developing collaborative relationships on local, regional and state levels. Through education, citizens and disability organizations are empowered and more knowledgeable. Transportation services have been developed, improved or enhanced through coordinated planning and needs assessments that better capture the needs and desires of all residents. The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission used the THA Toolkit in the development of their Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan. A mobility manager was hired to do community outreach, education and work at a newly developed call center. The mobility manager served 137 individuals with disabilities, connecting them with transportation and new transit routes. The THA Toolkit is a comprehensive catalog of tools and resources for systemic planning. In FFY2010, 46 people were trained on the Toolkit's function and adaptability. Council regularly receives positive feedback about the Toolkit's value and its increased use, but recognizes that capturing outcomes statewide may be difficult in the future. However, it is anticipated that the use of the Toolkit will continue to be replicated across the Commonwealth. The Council far exceeded the planned targets for all performance measures, except for the number of people facilitating transportation, which fell slightly short. Additional outcomes to fully meet targets are expected in FFY2011.

The Virginia DD Council is a collaborative partner in efforts to promote innovation and leverage support. The Council is an active partner in VA's United We Ride program and New Freedom initiative. Council staff continued to play an active role on the Interagency Transportation Coordinating Council (ITCC) to promote interagency cooperation at the state level. The role of the ITCC is to examine of Virginia's policies, as part of a team of state agencies, to ensure that comprehensive transportation

coordination efforts continue to move forward. Council members have been educated on Virginia's human service transportation system as well as United We Ride and New Freedom initiatives.

Additionally, the Council achieved success through the Creating a Community-Based Network of VaNavigator Centers grant (see Cross Cutting section for project details), achieving 49 program outcomes. Through working with local government and Area Agencies on Aging in 49 localities, the grantee both expanded transportation efforts and developed new transportation programs to ensure that people with disabilities were included in programs which had previously targeted the aging population primarily.

F. Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance broadly refers to activities that promote evaluation of and advocacy for the accessibility, availability, outcomes, costs and performance levels of a service or service delivery system. Goals and objectives included in this category pertain to quality of life, self-advocacy, leadership development, individual human rights, safety and protection from abuse and neglect. The Board's activities in the area of Quality Assurance include two ongoing in-house training programs (or sponsored programs).

Quality Assurance Projects in FFY2010

The Quality Assurance projects were linked to specific goals in the Board's FYSP and to specific areas of emphasis from the Developmental Disabilities Act.

Grant: Self-Advocates Leading Together (SALT)

Grantee: VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities

DD Funds Expended: \$22,499

Project Description: To establish a non-profit organization for self-advocates, operated by self-advocates.

Post-Grant: Self-Advocacy Mobilization (SAM)

Grantee: VCU/Partnership for People with Disabilities (PPD)

Project Description: To implement a self-advocacy initiative that will mobilize individuals to effect service system improvements and policy change at a local or regional level resulting in ongoing coalitions for future advocacy.

Sponsored Program: Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Update Year

DD Funds Expended: \$127,630

Project Description: To train rising high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to become effective self-advocates and leaders who will advance positive changes in services and supports for themselves and others with disabilities in their home communities and throughout Virginia.

Sponsored Program: Partners in Policymaking (PIP)

DD Funds Expended: \$189,240

Project Description: To train adults with disabilities and parents of children with a disability to become effective self-advocates and leaders who will advance positive changes in services and supports for people with disabilities in their home communities and throughout Virginia.

Sponsored Program: YLF and PIP Alumni Activities

Project Description: To monitor post-training advocacy activities in which YLF and PIP graduates participate.

Quality Assurance (QA) Outcomes in FFY2010

Through quality assurance projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 50 individuals (8 parents & 42 children) benefited from the Board's Quality Assurance (QA) initiatives;
- ◆ 2 quality assurance programs/policies were created/improved;
- ◆ 197 people were *active* in systems advocacy, of whom 129 were self-advocates, 52 were family members and 16 were identified as "others";
- ◆ 27 people were trained in systems advocacy and QA, of whom 10 were self-advocates, 17 were family members; and
- ◆ \$22,489 was leveraged for QA programs.

Quality Assurance: FFY2010 Goals were met.

Partnerships exist through the Council's liaison work with numerous business, non-governmental, government and non-profit entities. Council exceeded anticipated program/policy outcomes, including a DBHDS agency policy that adopted person centered principles, practices and commitment to community services for youth, and a DBHDS regulation that improved human rights for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Council continued to support self-advocates' work to form an organization. It is anticipated that the groundwork laid during this FFY, including drafting a three year strategic plan, by-laws and completing the required documents to form a 501(c)(3), will result in establishment of an organization run by self-advocates in FFY2011.

Council achieved much more self-advocacy activity than planned for FFY 10. Council held six public forums statewide and did extensive outreach to obtain input regarding system issues for the 2011 Assessment and 2012-2016 State Plan development. Self-advocates (19), in addition to family members (14) and others (7), provided substantive input regarding the status of disability services in Virginia at public forums and through mailed comments. In September 2009 Council decided that, after 10 years of operation, its YLF program was in need of modernization. Rather than hold the planned YLF in 2010, a Planning Committee (consisting of YLF alumni and staff) met regularly to assess and review YLF strengths and weaknesses as well as develop recommendations for improvement. In July 2010, the Committee hosted a statewide summit to get feedback on needed changes from other alumni and

supporters. An unexpectedly high number of YLF alumni (64), family members (7) and others (8) actively participated in the summit. The resulting YLF program revisions for FFY 11 include:

- ◆ change in venue to an urban campus, Virginia Commonwealth University;
- ◆ update of program content and schedule of activities;
- ◆ incorporation of technology in new and unique ways; and
- ◆ provision of information on social networking resources and pitfalls to avoid.

Through YLF and PIP alumni surveys, feedback showed that alumni were very active in advocacy efforts, resulting in unplanned outcomes, such as individuals (50) benefiting from those QA efforts; and in planned outcomes, such as self-advocates (15) and family members (33) being active in systems advocacy. Post-grant monitoring of the SAM grant also showed that self-advocates (8) and other (1) continued their systems advocacy in the Tidewater area.

Council conducted the annual Partners in Policymaking sessions resulting in 10 self-advocates and 17 parents graduating in 2010.

G. Formal and Informal Community Supports

Consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities continued its principal goal of increasing individuals' opportunities to live in communities of their choice. Board projects and their outcomes during FFY2010 emphasized advocacy and leadership to: promote change in state policy for increased community supports to people with disabilities; provide training and information to constituents on self-determination; and promote movement of persons from institutional to community placements.

Formal and Informal Community Supports Activities during FFY2010

Several strategies were employed to promote system change and capacity building for community supports that promote individual inclusion and community integration. Strategies included grants, contract support of training for professionals, and liaison work.

Grant: Medicaid Waiver Training & Information

Grantee: Endependence Center, Inc.

DD Funds Expended: \$18,752

Project Description: To increase access to Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services through development and statewide distribution of information via workshops, webinars and traditional paper documents and through collaborative efforts of disability advocates.

Post-Grant: Outreach to Families of Children At-Risk or Currently Residing in Institutions

Grantee: Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living

Project Description: To inform parents/guardians of children with disabilities who were residing in institutions or who were at-risk of institutionalization about available community service/support options; and to provide transition services for institutionalized youth upon request.

Contract: Virginia Guardianship Association/Elder Rights Coalition 2010 Conference

Contractee: VA Guardianship Association

DD Funds Expended: \$3,000

Project Description: To ensure representation by individuals with disabilities in discussions of guardianship; to support training in the topical areas of consumer choice, self determination, person-centered planning, circles of support, and micro-boards; and to educate lawyers and judges about the capabilities of individuals with disabilities to live independently.

Contract: Creative Roads to Inclusion 2010 Conference

Contractee: VCU VA Center on Aging

DD Funds Expended: \$3,275

Project Description: To build relationships between the aging and disability communities in order to educate community-based providers about needed supports and services.

Liaison Activity: Public Policy Work

Project Description: To conduct policy work and advocacy through participation in various statewide planning workgroups or legislative study groups.

Formal and Informal Community Supports Outcomes in FFY2010

Through community supports projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 1,876 individuals benefited from formal/informal community supports;
- ◆ 3 community supports programs/policies were created/improved;
- ◆ 825 individuals were trained in formal/informal community supports; and
- ◆ \$39,317 was leveraged for community supports.

Formal and Informal Community Supports: Goals were partially met.

Council continues its leadership helping to support and develop training at state conferences. Council staff led development of a disability services track at the Virginia Guardianship Association/Elderly Rights Conference, thereby training 113 judges, lawyers and staff in civil/criminal justice systems on topics such as: person-centered services and principles; best practices in hospital discharge planning; service access issues; and the role and services of Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The Creative Roads to Inclusion conference included sessions on person-centered practices and accessible transportation; and self-advocates, who were obtained through Council efforts, spoke on inclusive employment and housing. This conference trained 165 professionals and service providers. Although the targets for “number trained” and the “funds leveraged” for the conferences were not met, all other CS targets were met or exceeded.

The VaNavigator (VN) grant (see Cross Cutting section for project details) developed and implemented the criteria, policies and requirements for the establishment and training of VN centers to provide community support resources for adults with disabilities. Community specialists conducted training for VN Center staff, training 266 individuals throughout the state.

The Medicaid Waiver Training & Information (MWTI) grant developed up-to-date curriculum on HCBS waivers and trained 22 regional mentors, who in turn trained 259 individuals in their communities, including individuals with disabilities, family members and professionals. Training included in-person training, tele-conferencing and webinars. MWTI mentors provided technical assistance to 37 individuals resulting in community supports and other outcomes (such as education, employment, health and housing) improving community lives. Post-grant activity of the Outreach to Families of Children At-Risk or Residing in Institutions grant resulted in 43 individuals with disabilities receiving services (including personal care and respite) through the EDCD waiver.

Modest targets related to policy change were achieved, and these were the culmination of ongoing advocacy through partnerships over time. Council staff were engaged in various interagency workgroups through the state System Transformation Grant (STG) initiative, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) project, advisory boards, and ad hoc planning groups. Review of proposed agency regulations/policies (or revisions to same) continued through leadership of a STG workgroup dedicated to that purpose. Council continued to provide public comment, as indicated, on state agency policies and regulations to promote system change. Council continues to be invited to be a partner in new interagency workgroups and initiatives to strengthen and expand community services to individuals with DD and other disabilities. Three policy changes resulted:

- ◆ Virginia eliminated Level 2 screenings for Medicaid Waivers, thereby streamlining eligibility determination, positively impacting 1,793 individuals with disabilities (data from DMAS).
- ◆ Council staff, as 1 of 5 representatives with DBHDS, helped revise the ID/MR Waiver for re-application to CMS, which was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
- ◆ A proposal to develop a Medicaid waiver for Autism Spectrum Disorders that would have further silo'ed services did not move forward.

H. Cross-Cutting Activities

In addition to the activities listed above, during FFY2010 the Board engaged in a wide range of activities which had broad impact statewide across multiple Areas of Emphasis. These activities contributed to success in meeting a number of varied State Plan goals.

Cross-Cutting Projects in FFY2010

Grant: Creating a Community Based Network of VaNavigator Centers

Grantee: SeniorNavigator

DD Funds Expended: \$42,892

Project Description: To develop a person and family-centered network of VaNavigator Centers which will foster interagency cooperation, expand service capacity, and enable adults with disabilities to achieve greater independence.

In House Project: Public Policy and Liaison Activities

Project Description: As directed by the DD Act of 2000, purpose is to educate public officials and other decision-makers about Board activities and policy positions through position papers, testimony, regulatory review and public comment, and participation on advisory and other workgroups.

In-House Project: Voices & Visions

Project Description: The Council's newsletter is published quarterly on the website, in print and in alternate formats. The newsletters provided background information and progress reports on Board initiatives and partnerships, useful information on a wide range of general disability topics, and news of recent and up-coming training and advocacy opportunities. Newsletters continued to include more contributions by and highlights on collaborators.

In House Project: Outreach and Marketing

Project Description: To provide on-going production and distribution of outreach and communication products that promote or support Board policy positions and activities. This activity had many component activities:

- *Electronic outreach* via website (www.VABOARD.org) and e-digests (News@VBPD) containing information and announcements regarding policy positions, activities, events, information, and e-links to services or additional information;
- *Conference and meeting outreach*, which includes planning, promotional support and distribution, and presentations on disability issues, the state funded service system, and Board activities and policy positions at events for policy makers, service providers, advocates, individuals with disabilities and others.
- *Media Relations*, which is news and feature story placement and support in both print and broadcast markets, including background information and facilitation of activities to educate reporters on disability issues as well as Board policy positions; and
- *The Virginia Special Education Network (VSPN)*, a statewide communications network reaching parents, transition-age students, teachers, administrators and others with information on special education and related disability resources, events, and issues.

Cross-Cutting Outcomes in FFY2010

Through cross-cutting projects, the following federal performance measures were achieved:

- ◆ 421 policymakers were educated by the Board about issues related to Board activities;
- ◆ 57 unique publications (newsletters, public comment correspondence) were developed and distributed to policymakers about issues related to Board activities;
- ◆ 1,195,920 members of the general public are estimated to have been reached through Board public education/awareness and media initiatives; and
- ◆ \$42,507 was leveraged for cross-cutting.

Cross-Cutting: FFY2010 Goals were met.

The Board continued to strengthen and expand outreach and policy activities within traditional disability constituencies as well as to broader audiences. Concerns and recommendations included in *2008 Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System*, combined with the FFY2010 State Plan, provided a framework for prioritizing Council activities and for recommended areas of action by the Governor and his administration.

Concerns and recommendations developed in the Board's *2008 Biennial Assessment* informed growing requests from legislators and the Governor. Several Council public policy recommendations were adopted (see other Areas of Emphasis). The DD network and the ARC of Virginia continued work with the Virginia Alliance to reinforce advocacy efforts for services reform and transformation from institutions toward community supports. The Board convened a meeting of stakeholders to explore leveraging funding for community housing for individuals with disabilities, including finance and housing representatives from public and private sectors. Other council advocacy and liaison efforts supported: legislative study on autism services; alternatives to autism waiver, DBHDS' new lead role as state's autism and DD services agency; support of person-centered practices; and involvement of individuals with DD in emergency planning. The Board and partners provided input on state agency regulations and policies, including Dept. of health child development services. Staff provided information and advocacy on transition issues to education leaders; system issues to social workers statewide and to representatives from U.S. Health and Human Services.

Prior to the 2010 incoming administration and legislature, Council developed and released its "Benchmarks for Evaluating Public Policy in Virginia", a guide for developing policies, services and funding to ensure infrastructure for integration and inclusion. One legislator specifically referenced the "Benchmarks" in a recorded speech on disability funding.

Constituent contacts, networking, communications and media impact continued. Advocacy and agency partners requested constituent feedback as well as promotion of events and resources. Content and frequency of e-news digests grew, as did forwarding and posting of their contents. E-news constituent lists were purged in preparation for a database update. Voices & Visions newsletters integrated additional diverse content from collaborators. Media relations, coordinated with advocacy partners, generated print and broadcast coverage reaching more than 1 million constituents. Website content was refreshed and strengthened; and older materials were removed. Website use continued to grow with more than 30,000 unique users. Preparation for social media outreach began with activity monitoring and content collection.

The VaNavigator (VN) grant exceeded expectations. VN conducted regional focus groups with consumers and providers to determine challenges for adults with disabilities in accessing services and develop a training curriculum for policymakers. VN specialists identified potential organizations to serve as VN Centers, resulting in 205 centers established, many within government complexes. VN educated 149 local government leaders about the value of a 1-stop site for service information, assistance and needs of elderly and disabled individuals. Approximately one-third of VN Centers are located in rural and/or poverty areas. VN was exceptional in leveraging public and private funds, through local government & Dominion Resources, to fund 50 percent of the total project cost.

V. Assessing Consumer Satisfaction with Council Services

Consumer satisfaction with the activities of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities was obtained through a variety of methods during FFY2010, which included:

- Evaluation forms completed by Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) delegates and by participants in the Partners in Policymaking Program (PIP); and
- The required federal ADD Consumer Satisfaction Survey, an interactive online questionnaire, was widely publicized via e-mail, on our website, and in the *Voices & Visions* newsletter. Printed surveys, including accessible formats, were made available to collect information from as wide a range of individuals as possible.

A total of 450 responses were received for the **ADD Consumer Satisfaction Survey**. Respondent diversity was excellent: 38% were individuals with a disability; 40%, family members; 19%, advocates; 29% providers; and 16% public officials and policymakers. Most respondents participated in multiple activities. The following table summarizes survey results on Customer Satisfaction by percentage of responses.

Customer Satisfaction				
Number of responses: 450				
1. Respect - I (or my family member) was treated with respect during project activity.				Yes: 94.00% No: 6.00%
2. Choice - I (or my family member) have more choice and control as a result of project activity.				Yes: 81.00% No: 19.00%
3. Community - I (or my family member) can do more things in my community as a result of this project.				Yes: 81.00% No: 19.00%
4. Satisfied - I am satisfied with project activity.	4 – Strongly Agree: 47.00%	3 - Agree: 44.00%	2 - Disagree: 7.00%	1 – Strongly Disagree: 3.00%
5. Better Life - My life is better because of project activity.	4 – Strongly Agree: 43.00%	3 - Agree: 43.00%	2 - Disagree: 10.00%	1 - Strongly Disagree: 3.00%
6. Rights - Because of this project activity, I (or my family member) know my rights. (optional)				Yes: 89.00% No: 11.00%
7. Safe - I (or my family member) are more able to be safe and protect myself from harm as a result of activity. (optional)				Yes: 82.00% No: 18.00%

Verbatim comments were often lengthy, detailed and specific. There were favorable remarks about specific Council activities and policy positions, particularly YLF, PIP, grant activities, information and outreach efforts, rights and independent-living initiatives. Criticisms almost exclusively referenced limitations and disparities of state service system and resources, misunderstanding that Council does not provide direct services, or desire that it engage in even more outreach and become more widely known. Several commenters were unhappy with Council support for training center reform. Suggestions for Council activities focused on new and expanded initiatives. Respondents cited:

- ◆ “tremendous partner in Community for All movement;”

- ◆ “I am...better informed...to help my child succeed;”
- ◆ “better able to serve my consumers;”
- ◆ “everyone is very eager to help and assist...if they do not have the answer they will direct you to someone who does;”
- ◆ “shared values of self-determination;”
- ◆ “communication open and helpful;”
- ◆ “provided much needed collaboration” and “you have always taught me more; thank you;”
- ◆ “it would be good to see information more widely disseminated;”
- ◆ “results drivenefforts...must continue and grow stronger;”
- ◆ “need for more work to make the systems...stronger and better;” and
- ◆ “Virginia has a lot of catching up to do.”

In addition to the targeted surveys mentioned under Consumer Satisfaction, feedback was collected through extensive involvement in inter-agency workgroups and liaison activities, participation in appropriate public hearings and review of public comments collected by partner agencies. Council also obtained feedback at 6 regional Public Forums conducted as part of its system Assessment and State Plan development processes. The table below provides results of the Stakeholder Satisfaction survey. Responses were based on a Likert Scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 6 (Strongly Agree).

Stakeholder Satisfaction			
Number of responses: 240			
Impact - Council activities have improved the ability of the individuals with developmental disabilities.			
1. Make choices and exert control over the services and support they use:	6: Strongly Agree: 33.00% 3 Somewhat Disagree: 5.00%	5 Agree: 40.00% 2 Disagree: 3.00%	4 Somewhat Agree: 16.00% 1 Strongly Disagree: 3.00%
2. Participate in community life:	6: Strongly Agree: 33.00% 3 Somewhat Disagree: 6.00%	5 Agree: 39.00% 2 Disagree: 3.00%	4 Somewhat Agree: 15.00% 1 Strongly Disagree: 3.00%
Satisfaction - Council activities promote self-determination and community participation for individuals with developmental disabilities.	6: Strongly Agree: 40.00% 3 Somewhat Disagree: 3.00%	5 Agree: 39.00% 2 Disagree: 3.00%	4 Somewhat Agree: 14.00% 1 Strongly Disagree: 2.00%

A total of 240 responded. By activity or project, diverse respondents included: 42% info services; 35% training; 12% joint advocacy; 12% Council input; 10% Assessment use; and 46% grants. Most respondents participated in multiple activities. A few respondents preferred that the Board take more extreme positions on certain issues or opposed its stand on training center reform. Some confused its role with the Protection and Advocacy agency or expected the Board to provide more direct client services. However, most respondents viewed its impact positively. Impact & satisfaction survey ratings were extremely high, 88-92% positive, especially considering the survey's broad, inclusive dissemination

& controversy surrounding some Council advocacy. Verbatim impact comments ranged from strong praise for Council outreach, advocacy and system improvement activities to concerns about its specific policy positions, particularly its strong support for systems transformation leading to greater community integration.

Similar to the Consumer Satisfaction survey, some respondents expressed frustrations that Council did not (cannot) provide sufficient outreach to or direct services for their specific disability constituency. Level of satisfaction comments also reflected both the achievements and limitations of Council activities, praise for and criticism of its support for community integration, appreciation of its outreach and assessment activities and desires that it do more. Respondents expressed:

- ◆ “highest regard,” that Council has “come a long way in helping those with disabilities,” that Council members are helpful, caring and friendly;”
- ◆ appreciation for “programs brought to the community [that] create a network for interested parties and establish strong partnerships;”
- ◆ “disappointed” with Council’s advocacy for deinstitutionalization or wished that it were able to provide more direct services addressing their individual needs or more “visible.” “If you do great things, but no one knows, then you have failed in your mission;”
- ◆ Council “activities are to inform and empower. It is up to us and what we do with the information” and
- ◆ “I am satisfied with Council activities...not satisfied with how Virginia makes services available.”

Based on the survey information, it appears that individuals who participated in Board programs or were recipients of Board information were generally quite satisfied. The Board will continue its outreach activities and make important, useful information readily available and accessible to people with disabilities.

VI. Reporting Year (FFY2010) Expenditures

A. Type of Recipient

Recipient	Sub Title B \$	Match \$	Total
A. Type of Recipient			
1. State Councils on DD	\$1,142,436	\$161,416	\$1,303,852
2. Designated State Agency	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
3. Other(s) State Agency	\$35,390	\$27,705	\$63,095
4. State P & A Agencies	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. University Centers for Excellence	\$22,499	\$19,624	\$42,123
6. Non-Profit Organizations	\$87,903	\$66,088	\$153,991
7. Other	\$16,814	\$13,142	\$29,956
8. Total	\$1,355,042	\$287,975	\$1,643,017

B. Cost Categories- Areas of Emphasis

Category	Sub Title B \$	Other(s) \$	Total
B. Cost Categories- Areas of Emphasis			
1. Employment	\$72,530	\$17,661	\$90,191
2. Education and Early Intervention	\$55,260	\$6,159	\$61,419
3. Housing	\$64,788	\$15,659	\$80,447
4. Health	\$90,650	\$33,864	\$124,514
5. Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Recreation	\$55,259	\$6,159	\$61,418
7. Transportation	\$55,259	\$6,159	\$61,418
8. Quality Assurance	\$394,627	\$25,784	\$420,411
9. Formal/Informal Community Support	\$84,286	\$15,114	\$99,400
10. General management (Personnel, Budget/Finance/Reporting)	\$432,383	\$161,416	\$593,799
11. Functions of DSA	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
12. Total	\$1,355,042	\$287,975	\$1,643,017

VII. Dissemination of the Program Performance Report

Upon approval by ADD, the Board's Program Performance Report for FFY2009 was posted at the Board's website, www.vaboard.org, in fully accessible format, with prominent homepage listing of availability. The Board's website, which had more than 20,000 unique users in FFY2010, is linked to all major educational and advocacy groups throughout the state. When posted, an immediate e-announcement was sent to all constituent contacts (more than 4,300), including state and local elected and appointed policymakers and news media. Notice of availability was also made in the Board's quarterly newsletter, *Voices & Visions*. Subsequent coverage results from key constituent list serves, newsletters, and web-postings (more than 20,000 last year). In addition, this printed "reader friendly" version of the report is prepared and distributed to a wide range of primary stakeholders on the agency's mailing list.

Data collection and reporting for required state strategic plan performance measures also are coordinated with PPR outcome measures. Measures, collection methodologies and outcomes are posted quarterly to the state's widely publicized & utilized, user-friendly, accessible *Virginia Performs* website. All documents are available upon request in Braille, large-print and other accessible formats as needed. On-going relationships with community resources, including Virginia Voice radio reader service, are maintained to produce audio versions when needed. Data and narratives also are incorporated into the general public awareness campaign activities, online, and publications with additional related content on issues, resources, VBPD activities & participants' stories.

VIII. Network Collaboration: Selected Issues

This is a brief summary of the Board's collaboration with its Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network partners under the federal DD Act during FFY2010. The Protection and Advocacy (P&A) component of the network is the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy (VOPA); and the state's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is the Partnership for Virginians with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU/ Partnership). Under the DD Act, the Board (which is the state's DD Council) and these two partner agencies are directed to work together and, with additional community partners, promote improvements to Virginia's system of disability services/supports and subsequently to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The DD Act requires that members of Virginia's DD Network collaborate on a variety of specific issues. For FFY2010, the DD Network prioritized five issues/barriers as critical areas for improvement (not listed in particular order):

1. Renovation and rebuilding of state Training Centers.
2. Legislative or regulatory proposals that reduce protections to persons with DD.
3. Proposed cuts to Medicaid Home & Community Based Services Waivers and other services.
4. Need for improved self-advocacy.
5. Long Medicaid Waiver Wait Lists and lack of services to those who are not Waiver eligible.

Describe a collaborative activity between the DD network agencies:

The Virginia legislature allocated \$23 million to rebuild Southeastern VA Training Center and millions to renovate Central VA Training Center. The VA Alliance for Community (DD Network and Arc of VA) continued efforts to redirect state funding to community housing and services. Barriers are Training Center residents' families and staff fearing job loss. In FFY2010, frequent education and advocacy with the incoming Governor, transition team & Administration was conducted via information and meetings. The Board created and distributed a "Benchmarks" brochure for legislators and policymakers.

Description of Council's role in collaborative efforts:

The Board helped develop and distribute fact sheets, talking points and news releases. Board and DD Network efforts, including multiple meetings and information sharing, were intensified for the new Governor and Administration, who began in January 2009, and with legislators to promote expansion (or at least maintenance) of community services over institutional services despite the recession. The Board regularly advised and communicated with the Secretary of HHR on disability issues. The Board also worked with coalition partners to: identify policy support in state reports and regulations; identify comparative state trends in community vs. institution spending and utilization from state and national sources; and develop a "marketing" plan & messaging strategies. The Board developed and distributed "Benchmarks" for legislators w/ partners. The Board sponsored a meeting of state and national housing experts, coalition and stakeholders (including bankers) to discuss financial leveraging opportunities to expand housing options. The Board can provide information on experiences and copies of documents produced.

IX. Conclusion

FFY2010 was a productive year in which the Board made significant progress in achieving its goals, objectives, and annual targets. The Board, as the state's DD Council, continues to broaden and intensify its advocacy efforts through significantly expanded, higher quality marketing and outreach efforts, position papers, legislative and regulatory public comment, and partnerships with agencies, disability organizations, self-advocates with disabilities, and other key stakeholders. The majority of the Board's grant projects met or exceeded their goals. The Board will continue to be a VOICE advocating for substantive policy and funding improvements throughout the Commonwealth that enable Virginians with disabilities to thrive in their communities.