# Virginia Board for with Disabilities

# Board Meeting Minutes

# March 8, 2022

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities held its regular quarterly meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 via Zoom meeting.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Emmetri Beane, Ann Bevan**,** Phil Caldwell, Brandon Cassady, Allison Coles-Johnson, Alexandra Dixon, Dennis Findley, Samantha Hollins, Florence Jones, Kyle Jones, Jocelyn Kilgore, Molly Korte, Sarah Kranz-Ciment, Richard Kriner, Thomas Leach, Dennis Lites, Donna Lockwood, Rachel Loria, Eric Mann, Robert Matuszak, Kate Olson, Deanna Parker, Dinora Parthy, Lindsay Pearse, Eric Raff, Vasantha Rayman, Chandra Robinson, Cindy Rudy, Theresa Simonds, Edmond Turner, Alexus Smith, Sarah Taylor, Edmond Turner, Frederique Vincent and Niki Zimmerman.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dianna Banks**,** Frank Carrillo, Ray Hopkins, Madeline Nunnally, Olivia Price and Alexus Smith.

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Board Vice Chair, Alexandra Dixon, called the March 8, 2022, Board meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The Vice Chair stated that she wants to acknowledge that we have a very serious and a very sad situation going on in Ukraine and asked Board members and staff to have a moment of silence for reflection, good wishes and prayers for the people of Ukraine.

**ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:** The Vice Chair did a roll call/introduction for the Board members. Ms. Teri Morgan, Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a roll call/introduction for the Board Staff. The Vice Chair gave instructions for the protocols for the Zoom Board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF March 8, 2022 MINUTES:** The Vice Chair stated that the December 8, 2021 Full Board meeting minutes will be approved at the June 8, 2022 Board meeting. The Board members were instructed to send any comments they have regarding the December 8, 2021 minutes to Tara Bethea.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  There was no public comment.

**APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE:** The Vice Chair, stated that we need three Board members to volunteer for the Nomination Committee. Brandon Cassady, Thomas Leach and Richard Kriner volunteered to act as the Nomination Committee.

**DSAGR EVENT UPDATE:** The Vice Chair stated that the Board has three Board members who participated in the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond (DSAGR) virtual conference. The Vice Chair stated that the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities provided the DSAGR with funding for the conference. Emmetri Beane, Frederique Vincent and Rachel Loria was given three complimentary tickets to attend the conference. Frederique Vincent and Rachel Loria gave a brief update on their experience from the conference and Emmetri Beane gave her comments during the Investment Committee meeting. Frederique Vincent inquired if she could circulate the conference presentations to the Board. Mr. Jason Withers stated that he will contact the DSAGR and ask them if they could share the presentations and that he will provide them to the Board.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Clare Huerta, Deputy Director, provided an informational Legislative Session Overview of the 2022 General Assembly session. Ms. Huerta briefly discussed Board supported and unsupported bills, public testimony in committee hearings, correspondence to members of specific legislative committees and to individual senators and delegates. Ms. Huerta gave brief highlights pertaining to the budget, DD Waivers, education and a bill that has some culture and linguistic competence implications. Ms. Clare Huerta and Ms. Teri Morgan answered questions.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mr. Eric Mann, the Committee Chair, made the following report.

The Committee Chair noted that the committee discussed personnel updates. Mr. Mann stated that Dr. Penni Sweetenburg Lee has two new staff members, Jasmine Gray and Carnell Lewis. The Chair stated the Ronita Wilson will be retiring in mid-March and stated that they will be sending out information for Ronita’s retirement virtual celebration.

**TRAINING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (TAA) Program Quarterly Report:** The Chair stated that two of three DEI sessions have been completed and has had the highest registration to date. The Chair stated that the next session on April 22, 2022 will be focused on the second part of the mental health discussions.

**Partners in Policymaking (PIP) Program Quarterly Report:** The Chair stated that PIP conducted its sixth session in March. The Chair stated that the next time the group will meet will be on April 1 and the graduation will be on April 2 from 10 a.m. until noon. The Chair noted that staff will send out invitations for the graduation and that it will be a virtual event. The Chair stated that they would love to have everyone attend and celebrate the 20 Class of 2022 PIP graduates.

**TRAIN THE TRAINER Report:** The Chair stated that the Train the Trainer session for self-advocates will be held on April 30, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Chair stated that the target is around 50 trainees for this session. The Chair stated that Board staff asked the Board to recommend at least one self-advocate that they would like to participate in the Train the Trainer program.

**Communications REPORT:** The Chair stated that the website has been updated and that hopefully everyone has seen it and stated that there is a lot of great information on the website. The Chair asked that Board members stay involved and stay connected. The Chair noted that if you are interested in getting involved with the communications outreach to reach out to Lorraine and Megan to learn more.

Ms. Morgan stated that for clarification the website has not been updated yet so if you go on there now, you will not see much new. Ms. Morgan stated that Board members have provided a lot of input regarding the website redesign.

**INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Committee Chair, Ms. Chandra Robinson, made the following report.

**GRANTS AND CONTRACTS EXPENDITURES/MONITORING:** The Committee Chair stated that they discussed several grants but there were no action items.

Mr. Jason Withers, Grants, Contract and Program Information Manager, stated that no actions were needed on the grants and noted that just informational updates were provided. Mr. Withers provided a brief update on the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia’s Vaccine Access Grant and gave an update regarding an additional 12-month delay of the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing grant which will now start in January 2023. Mr. Withers stated that the Board will be reviewing a revised proposal from that grantee at the Board meeting in June.

**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Mr. Phil Caldwell, Committee Chair, made the following report.

The Committee Chair welcomed new Board member Kyle Jones who was able to join them today. The Chair stated that they had updates from Clare and Linh regarding the policy work they have been doing in the last quarter, as well as Project Living Well. The Chair stated that they had a brief discussion regarding future PAC topics and that they are going to try to bring some people in to discuss these topics with the PAC, including the mental health needs of people with ID/DD. The Chair stated that they are also going to try to see if they can get DMAS to talk about some of the new initiatives they have been bringing on for Medicaid recipients.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Alexandra Dixon, the EC Vice Chair, gave an Executive Committee meeting update. The Vice Chair stated that Ms. Morgan gave the Executive Director’s update. The Chair stated that it has been a very busy time for the Board, especially with the General Assembly being in session. The Vice Chair stated that one Board member has recently resigned and the vacant slot will be filled as soon as somebody can be identified. The Vice Chair stated that Mr. Henry Street gave an update on our fiscal reports and noted that we are in good financial shape.

**CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE with DR. VIVIAN JACKSON & MARISA BROWN:** Dr. Vivian Jackson and Marisa Brown gave a presentation on the application of Cultural and Linguistic Competence. Dr. Jackson gave a brief overview of the VBPD mission, five-year state plan, languages, cultural competence, equality versus equity and disparities.

Marisa Brown gave an overview of availability, awareness, accessibility and affordability, quality and utilization.

The Board Committee Chairs gave a brief overview of their committees and shared some of their own reflection on what they see as possibilities for their committees.

Board members and staff went into several break out rooms to discuss current activities related to diversity, inclusion, equity and to list strategies that will enrich the cultural and linguistic competence of the Board and Committees. Each group reported out their list of strategies and recommendations.

**QUESTIONS REGARDING AGENCY UPDATES & OTHER BUSINESS:** There were no agency update questions.

Ms. Morgan informed Board members that staff will be sending an e-mail to the Board asking for volunteers to participate in an ad hoc committee to review the recommendations for this year's assessments. Ms. Morgan stated that this will probably be an all-day meeting in May.

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee stated that she would like to invite the entire Board to the PIP Baccalaureate program, which will be held on April 1 from 5 p.m. to 7mp.m. The speaker will be Dr. Roscoe Cooper III with the Henrico County School Board. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee stated that the graduation ceremony will take place on April 2, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Ms. Morgan asked Board members to keep their eye out for the March e-Digest, which includes a Board member survey regarding the e-Digest. Board staff are interested in Board member feedback.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Vice Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Thomas Leach made a **MOTION** to adjourn the Board meeting. Sarah Jones seconded the **MOTION**. The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.