



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

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September 9, 2010

James W. Stewart III, Acting Commissioner
Department of Behavioral Healthcare and Developmental Services
13th Floor, Jefferson Bldg.
1220 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Policy 3002 (CO) 86-16, System-wide Staff Training:

Dear Jim:

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) appreciates this opportunity to provide public comment. We have only a few brief comments to make on the System-wide Staff training policy

Under Background:

We recommended changing the second bullet: delete "hospital" and add "*facilities*". As written, hospital only applies to MH facilities and HW Davis Medical Ctr. Staff at Training Centers should be able to move to community services.

As appropriate, add bullet to read: *Promotes dissemination of evidence based clinical practices throughout the service system*, or similar statement denoting improvement of clinical practices.

Under Policy, 4th bullet (see page 2) regarding staff training:

We recommend rewording and adding language to this bullet to read: To promote consistent philosophy and expectations regarding staff training, which shall: *promote person-centered practices and principles; promote expertise in serving individuals with co-occurring disorders (such as mental illness and addiction or mental illness and intellectual disability); promote clinical practices that encourage maximum self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in natural community environment(s) for all individuals served; strengthen or augment the existing support system for individuals served.*

Under Monitoring of Policy: We recommend clarification/identification of to whom the staff coordinator will report, i.e., the Commissioner, Director of Human Resources?

We hope that this is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heidi Lawyer", with a stylized, cursive script.

Heidi L. Lawyer

Cc: Ruth Anne Walker, Director, Legislative Affairs