



Virginia Board for
People with Disabilities

The Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities Council

2012-2016 State Plan Overview

(October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2016)

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Background

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) serves as the Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and as the Governor's Advisory Council on issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Authorized under the federal Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), DD Councils currently exist in 56 states and territories which receive funds to carry out advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building initiatives that will increase independence, productivity, and integration of individuals with disabilities in their communities and reduce policy and other barriers to full inclusion in all facets of community life.

DD Councils are required to develop five year state plans that provide a framework for the Councils' policy, program, and funding priorities. The state plan details the goals and objectives developed by each Council based on a required comprehensive assessment of disability services in the state. State plans, which are based on the federal fiscal year (October–September) are updated annually and progress in meeting goals is reported in December of each year for the previous federal fiscal year (FFY).

The Board's 2012-2016 State Plan was developed with public input, as required in the DD Act. Initial public comment for this plan was gathered during five public forums held in Spring 2010, and the draft goals and objectives were released for a 45 day public comment period in Spring 2011 (April 1–May 15, 2011). The Board considered the comments at its June 8-9, 2011 meeting and made several changes to the Plan in response to those comments. The Board-approved plan was submitted to the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) in August 2011 and is effective October 1, 2011.

Board Activities

The Board's priorities and strategies are identified, shaped, and focused through a comprehensive process that is designed to reflect the changing needs of disability stakeholders as well as shifts in the state's policy, regulatory, and fiscal environment. The Board achieves its organizational goals through an array of diverse activities that include:

- constituent outreach and training;
- service system monitoring;
- information, referral, and technical assistance;
- supporting and educating communities;
- building coalitions and informing policymakers;
- funding systems change grants; and
- advocacy training and leadership development.

Goals and Objectives

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act identifies nine "Areas of Emphasis" for the work of DD Councils. Councils can select some or all of these areas to address in their state plans based on their

comprehensive assessment, public input, and the status of their service delivery systems for individuals with DD. The nine areas of emphasis in which goals and objectives must fit are:

- Child Care
- Employment
- Health
- Recreation
- Quality Assurance
- Education/Early Intervention
- Formal/Informal Community Supports
- Housing
- Transportation

System monitoring by Board staff is an ongoing process, conducted through research, report reviews and interagency liaison activities. The issues identified through the research process from the Board's *2011 Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia* (available online at www.vaboard.org and upon request) helped guide the development of the Board's priorities for its 2012-2016 State Plan. The Board carefully considered the data and findings in the *2011 Assessment* and then developed goals and objectives based on its policy, research, investment, liaison and other activities. These were prioritized consistent with available staff and fiscal resources as well as consideration of whether the Board could have a significant impact with respect to the individual goals chosen. The goals and objectives are listed below.

Goal 1: Cultivate increased awareness and understanding that full inclusion of individuals with developmental and other disabilities in education, employment, health, civic and community activities is a civil right and an investment in Virginia's future.

Area of Emphasis: Formal/Informal Community Supports (CS):

Objective CS 1-1. Increase public awareness and understanding that full inclusion of individuals with developmental and other disabilities in education, employment, health and civic and community activities is a civil right and an investment in VA's future.

Objective CS 1-2. Support at least one activity that facilitates and demonstrates the participation of individuals with developmental and other disabilities in civic and community activities.

Objective CS 1-3. In collaboration with at least five public and private entities, enhance education, advocacy and outreach efforts regarding issues such as: successful community living by and safety (emotional, physical abuse and domestic violence) for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Objective CS 1-4. Influence at least five proposed policies, regulations, laws and budget actions to ensure that they are non-discriminatory, culturally competent, and are consistent with the tenets of a fully included life.

Goal 2: To eliminate the dual system of services (institution and community), work in partnership with public and private entities to increase state financial support and policies that are directed to expanding community infrastructure, services and supports.

Area of Emphasis: Employment/Education

Objective 2-1. Provide information to a minimum of one hundred and fifty policymakers regarding students with developmental and other disabilities who are exiting the secondary school system and will need adult community-based services and supports, including supports leading to successful post-secondary education, training, and competitive/integrated employment.

Objective 2-2. Advance systems change locally and statewide by supporting at least one project that demonstrates effective transition services and supports that facilitate successful post-secondary education, training, and/or employment.

Objective 2-3. Expand opportunities for fully integrated, competitive employment of individuals with developmental and other disabilities by supporting at least two regional and/or statewide employment projects including, but not limited to, customized employment and mentoring.

Objective 2-4. Advance the implementation of an Employment 1st policy in Virginia, as well as other policies which provide employment and/or create incentives for employment of individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Area of Emphasis: Formal/Informal Community Supports

Objective CS 2-1. Support at least one initiative that increases or improves family, behavioral and/or personal supports for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Objective CS 2-2. Support initiatives or state policies/regulations that enable individuals to access and maintain natural supports available to all.

Objective CS 2-3. Support at least 3 initiatives or state policies which address gaps in community supports, services or oversight and/or facilitate successful transition of individuals with developmental and other disabilities from institutions (such as ICFs-MR, nursing homes, and others) to community settings.

Objective CS 2-4. In collaboration with agency and advocacy partners, including those in the aging community, advocate and support systems transformation efforts that will result in efficient, effective services and supports that foster self-direction, choice and independence, as well as community participation, integration and inclusion.

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

Area of Emphasis: Health

Objective HE 2-1. Promote effective and accessible health services in the community for individuals with developmental and other disabilities, through the development of partnerships with non-disability entities, by advocating for at least three policy

recommendations that include dental services and integrated, patient-centered models of care.

Objective HE 2-2. Support at least one project that will create incentives to develop and provide high quality, community-based health and dental care using integrated, patient-centered models for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Area of Emphasis: Housing

Objective HO 2-1. Advocate for the development of a state low income housing subsidy for integrated housing that is controlled by the individual with developmental or other disability.

Objective HO 2-2. Support at least one policy or project that promotes the building of multi-family and community housing options using visitability and universal design standards.

Objective HO 2-3. Advocate for at least two policies that rebalance the use of state resources to fund community housing.

Area of Emphasis: Transportation

Objective TR 2-1. Support at least one initiative that promotes the creation of affordable transportation options in rural and/or underserved areas.

Objective TR 2-2. Promote at least one policy or initiative that ties transportation planning to the needs of people with disabilities.

Goal 3: Cultivate statewide leadership and self-advocacy activities by individuals with developmental and other disabilities and family members.

Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance

Objective QA 3-1. Train and support at least one hundred self-advocates to influence public policy and increase participation in civic and other community activities.

Objective QA 3-2. Expand the pool of effective advocates who are parents of individuals with developmental and other disabilities in order to influence systems change by at least seventy-five individuals.

Objective QA 3-3. Capitalizing on board investments, develop multiple strategies to facilitate ongoing local advocacy initiatives.

Objective QA 3-4. Establish or strengthen one program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental and other disabilities.