



Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

Program Highlights – 2014

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) operates on a federal fiscal year (FFY), from October 1 - September 30. In December 2014, the Board submitted its annual required Program Performance Report (PPR) for the period October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014 to the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). In May 2015, the Board received word that its report had been approved.

[Here are some of the highlights of the Board's work during FFY 2014.](#)

Grant Investments

At the time of the FFY 2014 report several of these grants were still in progress.

- An \$89,143 grant, **Oral Health for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD)**, awarded to the Virginia Oral Health Coalition (VAoHC) resulted in the training of 37 hygienists & dentists; 20 adults with ID/DD received dental care at hands-on training days in 2 communities. Two Externs from the VCU School of Dentistry were trained and provided care to 84 individuals with ID/DD at a school-supervised clinic. Fifteen new partners were engaged from residential and health providers.
- **Early Planning for Your Future** (\$40,000) grant to Valley Associates for Independent Living (VAIL) established an early transition program designed for ensure informed decision-making for elementary and middle school students. VAIL partnered with four public school divisions and served 12 student participants. VAIL also conducted 77 workshops, training 184 students, parents, and professionals. A total of seven programs and policies were impacted.
- The **Leadership for Empowerment & Abuse Prevention (LEAP)** project (\$178,125), awarded to the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University, trained



people with DD about healthy relationships and how to protect themselves from assault, abuse, neglect, and exploitation; 11 people were trained as trainers and a curriculum was developed for the phase of the project conducted during FFY14.

- A \$124,688 grant to the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL), **Empowerment to Prevent Institutionalization**, resulted in the training of 43 trainers + 28 RNs, case managers, and clinical supervisors (total of 71). Local resource directories for 10 CILS in Virginia were created as quick guides to disability services & supports for health professionals. The purpose was to prevent the institutionalization of people with DD who experience medical interventions, behavioral stresses, or changes in family dynamics.
- Through partnerships with three local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), a \$200,000 **Affordable Transportation Options** grant to the Dept. for Aging & Rehabilitative Services expanded transportation for people with ID/DD in rural and/or underserved areas of Virginia. Surveys indicated people used services to volunteer, shop for groceries, get to medical appointments and have more independence/social interaction in their communities.
- A **Peer-to-Peer Education Project** (\$52,066) awarded to the Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services working with the Arc of Virginia, trained 15 individuals with ID/DD + 15 others as mentors during FFY 2014. As individuals continue to move out of state institutions, this Council-funded project sought ways to pair people with peer mentors to ease fears and to learn about activities and life in local communities.

Policy

The Board tracked proposed **legislation and budget actions** affecting individuals with disabilities and provided feedback on a variety of legislative proposals. The Board's advocacy issues during the 2014 legislative session included Training Center discharges, portability of the state SSI Supplement (auxiliary grant), seclusion and restraint in public schools, licensure of behavioral health providers and behavior analysts, and special education on-line and virtual schools.

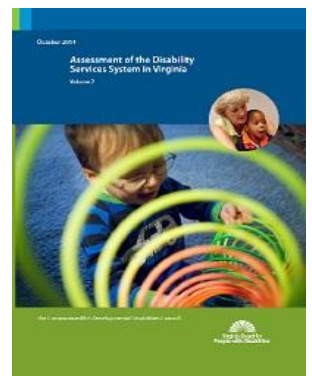
In its role as policy advisor, the Board participated in **26 interagency taskforces and workgroups** providing input and recommendations to improve the service system during SFY 2014. Some of the most vital work occurred through these collaborations: Coalition for Improvement of School Safety, Medicaid Waiver Redesign Advisory Committee, DBHDS Stakeholder Advisory Group on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement, DOJ Housing & Employment Workgroups, Commonwealth Coordinated Care Advisory Committee, State Employment Leadership Network, State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC), and the Virginia Department of Health Advisory Committee on Health Disparity & Health Equity.

The Board made formal [public comment](#) on proposed policies and plans affecting community integration, developmental services, education, emergency preparedness, and healthcare/Medicaid.

- Commission on Youth, *Study on the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Virginia Public Schools* (as part of Coalition for Improvement of School Safety)

- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
 - *Nursing Facility & Large ICF/IID Overarching Plan Draft to reduce the institutional placement of youth and adults with ID/DD*
 - *Draft Implementation Plan for Increasing Community Options that Support Youth & Adults with ID/DD & High Medical Needs in Integrated Settings*
 - *ID/DD Home & Community-Based Waiver Redesign*
 - *Integrated Day Plan*
 - *DD Health Support Network Plan*
 - *Emergency Preparedness Policy*
- Department of Housing and Community Development, *Consolidated Action Plan*
- Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) *Final Rule on Home and Community-Based Settings*
- Joint Commission on Health Care, *Dental Policy Option*

The [2014 Assessment of the Disability Services System](#) was published; 175 policymakers and more than 550 members of the general public received the initial distribution. The 2014 Assessment contained 79 systemic recommendations for Virginia, the Governor, the General Assembly, the Secretary of Health & Human Resources, and a variety of state agencies. Findings and recommendations addressed Early Intervention, Education, Employment, Health Care, Medicaid, Community Living, Institutional Supports, Housing, and Transportation.



Advocacy and Outreach

446 members of the general public were reached via Council support of the Arc state convention and Inclusion Day Planning initiatives. Work began on a toolkit to be used during Disability History Awareness Month to decrease bullying incidents among students, especially those with disabilities.

44 individuals were trained through the Council's [Youth Leadership Forum \(YLF\)](#) and [Partners in Policymaking \(PIP\)](#) programs. 28 were self-advocates and 16 were family members. 64 YLF & PIP alumni were active in advocacy and 20 attained membership on public/private bodies and in leadership coalitions.



YLF Delegates

In March the Board participated in **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** with a campaign on social media (e-news, Facebook, YouTube including PSA and Governor Proclamation); supplemented by PIP training program salute to grads in May/early June.

The Board helped plan two **Disability & Aging conferences** which had more than 240 total attendees. The Board's short documentary on the transition of individuals from institutions to community living, *Place Matters*, was shown at one of the conferences.



PIP Class of 2014