

# Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2026

## Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Allison Coles-Johnson Conner Cummings Jennifer Greene Karen Grizzard Nadia Rauhala Mick Sladic Erika Rogers Shay Ruff Matthew Shapiro (8:30 a.m.)  <b>Non-EC Board Members:</b> Kyle Jones Thomas Leach		Anita Ayres Tara Bethea Christine Germeyer Nia Harrison Jen Krajewski Teri Morgan Aieshia Poole Penni Sweetenburg-Lee Kellie Vanella Jason Withers

## Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

## Review of Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

The Chair greeted and welcomed Board members and staff. The Committee and staff introduced themselves. The Chair stated that four requests for virtual participation due to personal circumstances were made. The EC Committee must approve board members electronic participation. Ms. Coles-Johnson asked if there were any objections to approving electronic participation for four Board members for personal reasons: Ms. Melanie Rice, Mr. Jeffrey Katz, Mr. Cesar Dulanto and Ms. Ginny Conroy. Hearing no objections, Ms. Coles-Johnson called for a vote, and the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

## Approval of March 4, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked committee members if they had had a chance to review the minutes. The Chair asked if there were any edits or changes to the March 4, 2026, meeting minutes. Hearing none, Ms. Coles-Johnson called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** March 4, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Mick Slavic made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE**, and Ms. Karen Grizzard seconded it. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

## Board Member Attendance

Mr. Jason Withers, Director of Administration, noted the attendance tracking attachment EC 3-1. Mr. Withers noted that there are no concerns with the Board members' attendance.

## Executive Director's Update and Questions

Ms. Teri Morgan briefly summarized key activities that took place in the last quarter. Ms. Morgan referenced EC 4-1 and reported on special initiatives and workgroup participation, RTI Training, policy work, agency administration and Board operations, communications, grants and contracts, and training and alumni development programs. Ms. Morgan stated that VBPD has a new Grants and Contracts Administrator, Ms. Aieshia Poole, and a new Communications Assistant, Ms. Danielle Logan. The Board welcomed the new staff members.

## Agency Fiscal Report

Mr. Jason Withers summarized the agency's fiscal report and provided the balances. He stated that the balance reflects where we should be this time of year. Mr. Withers stated that the fiscal year 2026 budget totaled \$ 1,901,516 and noted that the agency has spent \$1,524,295 leaving \$377,221. Mr. Withers noted that the agency is on track to spend the remaining funds by the end of the fiscal year. He stated that if there are some additional funds left, the agency has the option to pre-pay some of services. Mr. Withers briefly discussed the 2025 and 2026 federal awards and noted that the agency is on track to spend down the state and federal award.

## SFY 2027 Board Operational Budget

Mr. Jason Withers presented the operational budget, highlighting a 6.8% increase from FY26 (\$1,901,516) to FY27 (\$2,030,987). He provided a detailed breakdown of budget categories and programmatic changes. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Withers stated that the total anticipated revenue for FY27 is \$3,969,250, supported by an anticipated FFY 2027 grant award of \$1,734,502 and the State general fund appropriation of \$285,410, which is an increase from the previous fiscal year. Questions were asked and answered about the Training Programs budget.

Hearing no more discussion, the Chair called for a motion to present the FY2027 budget to the full Board for approval. Ms. Erika Rogers called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the FY2027 Budget and Mr. Mick Slavic seconded it. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

## Update & Onboarding New Executive Director

The Chair announced that this would be the final Board meeting for the agency's Executive Director, Ms. Teri Morgan. In updating the Executive Committee on the succession process, the Chair noted that a significant number of applications had been received for the position. An interview panel comprised of Board members and select external stakeholders is scheduled to begin interviews on Friday, June 5, 2026.

## Committee Agendas

Committee Chairs Ms. Jennifer Greene with AOT, Ms. Karen Grizzard with PAC, and Mr. Jason Withers, on behalf of the IC Chair, Mr. Matthew Shapiro, provided a brief overview of committee meeting agendas.

## Other Business

The committee members expressed their sincere gratitude and farewell wishes to Executive Director Teri Morgan ahead of her upcoming retirement.

## Adjournment

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas Leach made the **MOTION** to adjourn, Ms. Nadia Rauhala seconded. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:38 a.m.

## Board Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2026

### Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Marcus Allen	Alexander Campbell	Anita Ayres
Ann Bevan	Amaan Karim	Tara Bethea
Tim Capoldo	Jen Kelly	Christine Germeyer
Allison Coles-Johnson	Dana Taormina	Nia Harrison
Ginny Conroy (Virtual)		Jennifer Krajewski
Conner Cummings		Danielle Logan
Parthy Dinora		Teri Morgan
Cesar Dulanto III (Virtual)		Linh Nguyen
Cathy Edwards		Aieshia Poole
Amanda Forry-Fino		Penni Sweetenburg-Lee
Adrian Frierson		Kellie Vanella
Jennifer Greene		Jason Withers
Karen Grizzard		
James Hall		
Melinda Hanko		
Samantha Hollins (Cici Reid)		
Kyle Jones		
Jeffrey Katz (Virtual)		
Richard Kriner		
Thomas Leach		
Amber Lee		
Rachel Loria		
Rick Mitchell		
Deanna Parker		
Lindsay Pearse		
Eric Raff		
Nadia Rauhala		
Melanie Rice (Virtual)		
Erika Rogers		
Shay Ruff		
Matthew Shapiro		
Mick Sladic		
Mary Vought		
Kristie Bowie-Young		

### Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities met at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel for the June 3, 2026, Quarterly Board meeting.

The Chair, Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson, called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. She greeted and welcomed Board members and staff.

The Chair informed Board members that the Executive Committee approved virtual participation for four Board members, Ms. Melanie Rice, Mr. Cesar Dulanto, Ms. Ginny Conroy and Mr. Jeffrey Katz, due to personal circumstances. Ms. Coles-Johnson welcomed the Board members who participated via Zoom.

The Chair reviewed the housekeeping notes.

## Introductions

The Chair asked Board members and staff to introduce themselves. She asked Board members to include their names, where they live, and the seat they fill.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked whether there were any changes to the March 4, 2026, Board Meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a **MOTION** to **Approve** the minutes. Mr. Matthew Shapiro made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes, and Ms. Parthy Dinora seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Report of the Nomination Committee and Vote on Slate of Officers

Mr. Jason Withers and Mr. Kyle Jone, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the Nominations Committee, which included Ms. Deanna Parker and Ms. Rachel Loria, met on Monday, April 20, 2026. During the meeting, the committee considered several factors in making their recommendations, including leadership continuity, familiarity with the Board's work, and diversity within the Executive Committee.

The SFY 2027 slate of officers from the Nominations Committee was presented as follows: Allison Coles-Johnson, Chair; Shay Ruff, Vice Chair; Lindsay Pearse, Secretary; and At-Large Members: Conner Cummings, Erika Rogers, and Cesar Dulanto.

The Chair asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, she asked for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Slate of Officers as presented. Ms. Parthy Dinora made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE**, the **MOTION** carried unanimously,

## Presentation of SFY Board Operational Budget

Mr. Jason Withers presented the operational budget, highlighting a 6.8% increase from FY26 (\$1,901,516) to FY27 (\$2,030,987). He provided a detailed breakdown of budget categories and programmatic changes. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Withers stated that the total anticipated revenue for FY27 is \$3,969,250, supported by an anticipated FFY 2027 grant award

of \$1,734,502 and the State general fund appropriation of \$285,410, which is an increase from the previous fiscal year. Questions were asked and answered about state employee bonuses.

Hearing no more discussion, the Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the FY2027 Board operational budget. Mr. Matthew Shapiro made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the FY2027 Budget, and Mr. Thomas Leach seconded it. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

## **FFY 2027 & 2028 Work Plan / Activities Discussion**

Ms. Nia Harrison provided an update on the development of the State Plan and reviewed the next steps in the planning process. She explained that the Work Plan identifies the specific activities the Board will undertake to achieve its 5-year goals and objectives.

Ms. Harrison outlined the required components of the Work Plan and discussed potential approaches for implementing the State Plan. She emphasized the importance of Board input in determining annual priorities and selecting activities for the upcoming year.

Ms. Harrison also provided an overview of the workgroups and planning activities that support the development of the Work Plan. She briefly reviewed several goals, objectives, and grant related activities, and discussed opportunities for the committees to focus their efforts, particularly in the areas of grant prioritization and assessment activities.

Ms. Harrison thanked Board members for their continued participation and support in the State Plan development process.

## **Report of the Assessment Ad Hoc Committee**

Ms. Karen Grizzard, Chair of the Ad Hoc Assessment Committee, reported that the Committee met to review the key findings and recommendations from the Board's two assessment topics. She recognized Ms. Krajewski for her extensive work in developing the assessments and acknowledged the contributions of the Committee members who participated in the review process.

Ms. Grizzard also reported that the Committee reviewed and discussed the key findings and recommendations from the Barriers to Navigating the DD Waiver Waitlist and Support for Family Caregivers assessments. After discussion and minor revisions, the Committee voted to submit those recommendations to the Board for approval. Ms. Grizzard turned the presentation over to Ms. Jen Krajewski, Deputy Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs.

Ms. Krajewski thanked committee members for their time and effort. She explained that, upon Board approval, staff would finalize the written assessments for publication and distribution to the Governor's Office, Cabinet members, state legislators, Virginia's congressional delegation, Board members, and other stakeholders. The completed assessments will also be posted on the Board's website.

Ms. Krajewski provided an overview of the DD waiver application process and presented the key findings and recommendations related to Barriers to Navigating the DD Waiver Waitlist assessment. Board members asked questions regarding how Virginia's system compares to those in other states, and staff provided responses.

Hearing no more discussion, the Chair called for a **Motion to Approve** the recommendations for the Barriers to Navigating the DD Waiver Waitlist assessment. Ms. Parthy Dinora made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the recommendations as presented. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Ms. Krajewski then presented the key findings and recommendations related to the Supporting Family Caregivers assessment. Board members discussed the recommendations, including questions about a caregiver tax credit and other supports available to families.

Hearing no more discussion, the Chair called for a **Motion to Approve** the recommendations for the Supporting for Family Caregivers assessment. Mr. Matthew Shapiro made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the recommendations as presented. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

The Chair thanked the Committee members and staff for their hard work and time invested in completing the assessments and developing the recommendations.

## Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

The Chair individually recognized each outgoing Board member: Adrian Frierson, Nadia Rauhala, Mick Slavic, Mary Vought, Amber Lee, Jennifer Greene, and Karen Grizzard. Each Board member received a certificate of appreciation for their service and a plaque.

## Board Activity

Board members and staff participated in an engaging Alphabet Soup activity.

## Lunch Break

The Board adjourned for lunch at 11:45 a.m.

## Reconvened

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Report of the Investment Committee:** Mr. Jason Withers, Director of Administration, presented the Committee report on behalf of Mr. Matthew Shapiro, Chair.

Mr. Withers reported that five proposals were received in response to the Pre-ETS RFP. The total amount requested by applicants was approximately \$914,789 (exclusive of match dollars). He noted that available funding for this grant cycle was approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Withers explained that, following a thorough review, the Grant Review Team (GRT) recommended funding a proposal submitted by the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia

(ECNV) in the amount of \$200,000. He provided an overview of the proposed project and its anticipated outcomes.

Following the presentation and discussion of the proposal, Mr. Withers asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a **MOTION to APPROVE** funding the ECVN proposal in the amount of \$200,000. Mr. Thomas Leach made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the proposal. Ms. Rachel Loria abstained. The **MOTION** passed.

Mr. Withers presented a no-cost extension request submitted by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) for the grant project "Expanding Capacity for Customized Employment Services to Virginians with Disabilities."

Mr. Withers explained that DARS is requesting a twelve-month extension, which would extend the project from September 30, 2026, to September 30, 2027. The request was necessary due to procurement and contracting delays experienced during the first year of the project. He noted that the additional time would allow DARS to complete and achieve the intended project outcomes.

Following the discussion, Mr. Withers asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a **MOTION to APPROVE** the twelve-month no-cost extension request submitted by DARS for the "Expanding Capacity for Customized Employment Service to Virginians with Disabilities." Mr. Thomas Leach made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the request for a twelve-month no-cost extension. Ms. Rachel Loria and Mr. Richard Kriner abstained. Mr. James Hall recused himself. The **MOTION** passed.

Mr. Withers presented the first Self-Advocate Scholarship funding request submitted by the Come As You Are organization, referring to Attachment BD-4.

Mr. Withers explained that the organization requested \$2,000 to support the participation of five self-advocates in the "**Work Ready, Future Strong**" program. The program is designed to equip adults with disabilities with the skills, confidence, and tools needed to achieve sustained employment success and greater independence. The program is scheduled to be held at Virginia Wesleyan University from September 9, 2026, through December 2, 2026.

Following the discussion, Mr. Withers asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a **MOTION to APPROVE** the scholarship funding request. Ms. Ann Bevan made a **MOTION to APPROVE** Self-Advocate Scholarship Funding Request #1 from the Come As You Are organization in the amount of \$2,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Withers then presented the second Self-Advocate Scholarship funding request submitted by the Come As You Are organization, referring to Attachment BD-5.

Mr. Withers explained that the organization requested an additional \$2,000 to support the participation of four self-advocates in the "**Life Skills BRIDGE**" program. The program is designed to provide young adults and adults with disabilities the skills, confidence, and practical

training needed to increase independence and strengthen self-advocacy in all areas of life. The program is scheduled to be held at Virginia Wesleyan University from September 22, 2026, through November 12, 2026.

Following the discussion, Mr. Withers asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the scholarship funding request. Mr. Matthew Shapiro made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** Self-Advocate Scholarship Funding Request #2 from the Come As You Are organization in the amount of \$2,000. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

See IC meeting minutes for additional details.

**Report of the Advocacy, Outreach, and Training Committee:** Ms. Jennifer Greene, Chair of the Advocacy, Outreach, and Training (AOT) Committee, presented the Committee's report.

Ms. Greene reported that Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee provided an overview of the accomplishments achieved during the past year through the Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program, the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), and the Board's statewide educational events.

Ms. Greene shared that the Youth Leadership Academy recently launched a new initiative, "Shine the Spotlight," which highlights self-advocates through the program's website and social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram. She noted that the initiative has been successful in motivating participants and increasing engagement among YLA alumni.

Ms. Greene reported that the next Partners in Policymaking class will begin in September 2026. The upcoming class includes 17 self-advocates and 13 parents and family members, making it the most diverse class in the program's history. She also noted that the annual Training Alumni Leadership Retreat will be held on June 13, providing alumni with an opportunity to identify priorities for the coming year and discuss topics they would like the program to address.

Ms. Greene further reported that the Board hosted seven continuing education workshops during the year, all of which were well attended. Collectively, the workshops generated more than 3,200 views on Facebook, demonstrating strong community interest and engagement.

Ms. Greene stated that Ms. Anita Ayres, Communications Director, provided an update on the Board's communications efforts. She reported that VBPD launched a new Instagram account, @VA\_Board, in May, and that it has already experienced strong engagement. Ms. Greene also welcomed Danielle Logan as the Board's new Communications Assistant and expressed appreciation for her contributions to the team.

Ms. Greene reported that the Committee discussed priorities for the upcoming State Plan work plan. One proposed activity is to collect and share stories from self-advocates and family members about overcoming barriers to services and supports. These stories will help inform the Board's work and raise awareness of issues affecting Virginians with developmental disabilities. She noted that the initiative will begin with stories gathered through the Board's town hall meetings.

Ms. Greene concluded her report by reviewing several upcoming training, outreach, and advocacy activities planned for the coming year.

See AOT meeting minutes for additional details.

**Report of the Policy Advisory Committee:** Ms. Karen Grizzard, Chair of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), presented the Committee's report.

Before beginning her report, Ms. Grizzard shared that it had been an honor and privilege to serve on the Board. She noted that her term would conclude in the coming weeks and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to the Board's work. Ms. Grizzard thanked Ms. Jennifer Krajewski, Deputy Director, for her support and assistance with Committee activities throughout her tenure.

Ms. Grizzard provided an overview of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier that day. The Committee also reviewed and approved its March 4, 2025, meeting minutes.

Ms. Grizzard stated that Ms. Nia Harrison and Ms. Krajewski reviewed policy priorities and planning activities related to the development of the FFY 2027–2031 State Plan. Ms. Krajewski also provided updates on the Board's 2026 assessments and liaison activities. In addition, the Committee discussed potential topics for future meetings and Board activities.

Ms. Grizzard reported that the Committee reviewed and approved two proposed assessment topics for 2027. The first assessment will examine residential services available through the DD Waiver, including the Community Housing Guide service, and the second will focus on day and employment services available through the DD Waiver.

Following the presentation of the proposed assessment topics, the Chair asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, the Chair called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the two assessment topics. Mr. Matthew Shapiro made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the proposed 2027 assessment topics: (1) Residential Services in the DD Waiver, including the Community Housing Guide service, and (2) Day and Employment Services in the DD Waiver. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

See PAC meeting minutes for additional details.

The Chair thanked Ms. Greene, Ms. Grizzard, and Mr. Shapiro for their reports and for their leadership and service to the Board and its committees.

The Chair then invited Board members to ask questions regarding the Executive Committee meeting held earlier that morning. Hearing none, the Board proceeded to the next agenda item.

## Other Business

The Chair recognized the upcoming retirement of Ms. Teri Morgan, Executive Director, and expressed the Board's sincere appreciation for her many years of dedicated service and

leadership. The Chair highlighted Ms. Morgan's significant contributions to advancing the Board's mission, strengthening advocacy efforts across the Commonwealth, and improving opportunities and outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Mr. Withers presented Ms. Morgan with a commemorative plaque in recognition of her service to the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. The Chair shared a letter from Governor Abigail Spanberger expressing gratitude for Ms. Morgan's contributions to the Commonwealth and her lasting impact on the disability community.

Board members and staff then shared a tribute video featuring messages of appreciation and recognition from colleagues, partners, advocates, and stakeholders. The video highlighted Ms. Morgan's many accomplishments and the positive influence she has had on the Board, its programs, and the individuals and families it serves.

Ms. Morgan thanked the Board, staff, and partners for their support and collaboration over the years. She reflected on her time with the Board and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside such dedicated advocates and leaders. Ms. Morgan noted that working to improve the lives of Virginians with developmental disabilities had been one of the most meaningful experiences of her career and thanked everyone for their partnership.

The Chair again thanked Ms. Morgan and wished her the very best in her retirement.

## **Adjourn**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

## AOT Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2026

### Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Conner Cummings Cesar Dulanto (V) Cathy Edwards Amanda Forry-Fino Jennifer Greene Melinda Hanko Rachel Loria Kate Olson Nadia Rauhala Shay Ruff Cynthia Pettus	Alex Campbell Jen Kelly           <b>Guest Attendee:</b> Sharon Cummings	Kellie Vanella Christine Germeyer Dr. Penni Sweetenberg-Lee Anita Ayres Danielle Logan Teri Morgan           (V) - Virtual Attendance

### Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

The Advocacy, Outreach, and Training Committee met at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Richmond, on June 3, 2026. Ms. Jennifer Greene, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m. A quorum was met. The Chair asked for introductions from the attendees.

### Executive Committee Update

Ms. Jennifer Greene gave a summary of the Executive Committee meeting, including updates on the Board-sponsored clear/plain language training for staff from participating Health and Human Resources (HHR) agencies and Community Services Boards (CSBs); the Board’s ongoing monitoring of intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID); and a sibling panel that VBPD staff member Nia Harrison participated on at an Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) Regional Council Meeting. Mr. Cesar Dulanto commented that he is a Western Region Council Member for the IFSP and attended this meeting. He expressed gratitude for the emphasis placed on the importance of siblings of people with disabilities, who can be overlooked.

Ms. Greene gave other updates from the Executive Committee meeting, including on the two new VBPD staff members, Grants & Contracts Administrator Aieshia Poole and Communications Assistant Danielle Logan; the recent release of the 2025 Program Performance Report Highlights; and the upcoming retirement of Executive Director Teri Morgan. Ms. Greene shared that they received many applications for Ms. Morgan’s position, and interviews will begin on Friday, June 5.

## Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jennifer Greene called for the approval of the March 2026 meeting minutes. Ms. Rachel Loria made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the March 2026 AOT meeting minutes, and Ms. Shay Ruff seconded. The March 2026 meeting minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

## Training & Alumni Development Programs Update

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee opened her presentation by acknowledging Ms. Jennifer Greene's service, as it is her last meeting as a Board member. She then began her report with an update on Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). Following the successful rollout of the Shining the Spotlight series for YLA alumni in March, the Training & Alumni Development Programs Unit also began featuring Partners in Policymaking (PIP) alumni in their monthly e-newsletters to training alumni. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee acknowledged the hard work of Training & Alumni Development Programs Unit staff, Ms. Christine Germeyer and Ms. Kelie Vanella, as well as all the players who made the 2025 YLA possible last July, including agency partners, General Assembly members, vendors, and self-advocate co-facilitators.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee then gave an update on PIP, which kicks off September 11 and 12, 2026, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Richmond. She explained that later in-person sessions will take place at the Delta Hotel in downtown Richmond, and the change in venue for the first in-person session is due to construction delays. She also introduced the 2027 PIP Class, the first during her tenure to be predominantly made up of people of color and people with disabilities.

Finally, Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee reviewed the seven Training Alumni-Alumni Development Program Statewide Continuing Education Workshops that took place between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, which overall featured 13 presenters, had over 2,000 registrants, over 1,000 attendees, and over 3,000 Facebook views. For the first time, her Unit also coordinated with presenters from six national organizations.

Ms. Nadia Rauhala commented that she shared the workshop on suicide awareness and prevention with a family she knows whose son is autistic, non-verbal, and has been struggling with depression, and that they found the training helpful. Ms. Rachel Loria added that she also shared the training with several clients who were happy to see the topic recognized. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee let the committee know they are considering a second part for the training during the next state fiscal year.

Questions were asked and answered about the workshop recordings, which are archived on the VBPD YouTube channel once the live videos expire on Facebook after 30 days. Ms. Jennifer Greene also asked how workshop topics are selected, and Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee let her know they come from recommendations from alumni during their retreat as well as discussions among her unit as relevant topics arise. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee added that mental health and suicide prevention and awareness will also be included in the upcoming PIP curriculum.

## **Communications Activity Report**

Ms. Anita Ayres reviewed highlights from the Communications Activity Report. She shared that following the departure of Mr. Eric Beidel, she recruited Ms. Danielle Logan as the new Communications Assistant. Among other responsibilities, Ms. Logan helps manage social media content, VBPD's e-newsletters, and is participating in the second cohort of the clear/plain language training co-sponsored by VBPD, which Ms. Ayres participated in the previous year.

Ms. Ayres also shared that VBPD launched an Instagram account (@VA\_Board) in May that has so far gained over 130 followers. Ms. Ayres complimented Ms. Logan's work creating reels, or short videos, to further the reach of VBPD's content. Ms. Ayres also directed committee members to the Instagram Guidance Document in the Board packet for more information on how VBPD plans to use this account in conjunction with other social media platforms.

Ms. Ayres also reported metrics for VBPD's other social media accounts, which continue to see steady growth. Finally, she highlighted other communications activities, including routine support and maintenance for the VBPD website, and marketing support for Board initiatives such as the request for proposals for the Pre-ETS grant opportunity; the design of the 2025 Program Performance Highlights; and marketing and livestream support for the Statewide Continuing Education Workshops, among other projects.

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee echoed her appreciation for the close collaboration of the communications and training teams, and thanked Ms. Ayres for including training features such as the YLA spotlights on social media. Ms. Jennifer Greene congratulated Ms. Ayres on the social media growth she has observed during her time on the Board.

## **Discussion: Work Plan Activities for FFYs 2027-2028**

Ms. Anita Ayres opened the discussion on communications and self-advocacy activities for FFY 2027-2028 by reminding committee members that the Board approved goals and objectives for the next five-year State Plan during the March meeting. She explained that Board staff are required to submit a detailed work plan for FFY 2027 to federal funders by August 15.

Ms. Ayres stated that while communications work is typically not included in the work plan because it is categorized as a general management activity, there is one communications activity proposed for the new State Plan. This activity is under the Self-Advocacy goal, Coalition Participation objective (4-3), and involves collecting and sharing stories from Board members, self-advocates, and family members about their experiences overcoming barriers and accessing services.

Ms. Ayres shared that staff plan to collect stories by recording Zoom Town Halls so constituents from around the Commonwealth can participate. She added that themes and questions could

be shared in advance so that participants came prepared to share stories about the barriers they have faced and their successes. The communications team could then edit and disseminate the stories to support internal and external advocacy efforts, support Board communications campaigns, and promote Board training programs. Ms. Ayres shared that ideally, the communications team would begin collecting stories in fall 2026 and begin disseminating stories in March 2027 as part of a DD Awareness Month campaign.

Ms. Ayres then welcomed input on the proposed activity and plan. Ms. Shay Ruff voiced her support, adding that the Ally Alliance would be interested in participating. Ms. Nadia Rauhala said she also knew members of the public who could be interested. Ms. Amanda Forry-Fino also responded affirmatively with her intention to participate. Ms. Ayres concluded discussion around her activity by inviting Board members to contact her if they knew of people or organizations who could participate or help disseminate information about the campaign. She added that there will also be several calls to action on social media.

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee then reviewed the training activities listed under the self-advocacy goal. She shared that the Self-Advocacy Organization objective (4-1) is overseen by the Investment Committee, and the latest recipient for the grant was The Arc of Virginia.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee then reviewed the activities for the Peer Leadership Training objective (4-2). She shared that she would conduct Train the Trainer in September 2026, as well as FFYs 2028 and 2030. During Train the Trainer, she invites self-advocates to take basic training on speaking, ice breakers, and the importance of social media, handouts, and PowerPoints, among other topics. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee also described how she hires self-advocates as staffers, presenters, speakers, and co-facilitators for events, the second activity for objective 4-2.

Moving to the activities under the Coalition Participation objective (4-3), Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee reviewed the timelines for Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), which will occur in 2027, 2029, and 2031; Partners in Policymaking (PIP), which will take place over seven months as a one weekend per month commitment, from 2026 to 2027, 2028 to 2029, and 2030 to 2031; and the Alumni Development Program, which offers continuing education workshops. She explained the complexity of the logistics of YLA and PIP, largely due to the procurement and coordination of hotels and vendors to meet the necessary accommodations. She also shared that the Minnesota DD Council founded the PIP program and hosts a self-guided virtual PIP course on its website. Because PIP only takes place every other year, her team directs people to the Minnesota website during off-years and tracks participation as they can.

Ms. Shay Ruff and Ms. Jennifer Greene commended Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee for her team's work. Discussion ensued regarding Minnesota's virtual PIP program, and Board members agreed on the value and quality of in-person participation.

Ms. Jennifer Greene voiced her appreciation for the training and communications staff and her excitement for the upcoming training and communications activities. Mr. Cesar Dulanto asked whether only Virginians could participate in the communications activity, and Ms. Anita Ayres responded affirmatively, as VBPD is a state council.

## Future Meeting Topics

Ms. Jennifer Greene then opened the floor for discussion around future AOT meeting topics, speakers, and discussions. She expressed interest in learning more about SibStrong, an organization that connects siblings of people with disabilities with resources and support.

Ms. Amanda Fory-Fino shared that AOT should discuss the abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, particularly mental abuse that cannot be seen and where people can find help. Dr. Penni-Sweetenburg-Lee added that the issue is complicated, as while VBPD staff can provide resources and contacts, the more complex an issue is, the more difficult it can be for agency staff to be involved.

Ms. Rachel Loria shared that she would like to present on the kinds of services and supports the disAbility Law Center can and cannot provide. Ms. Kate Olson agreed on the importance of addressing legal issues and the strength of self-advocacy in accessing the right services.

Ms. Shay Ruff suggested a follow-up training on suicide prevention that highlights actionable strategies, warning signs, successful resources, and lived experiences. Ms. Nadia Rauhala added that she would like the training to describe how the warning signs for people who are verbal and not verbal can be different. Dr. Penn-Sweetenburg-Lee commented that the second part of the suicide prevention and awareness training may need to take place over a full day to fully present the necessary information.

Ms. Greene thanked committee members for sharing their suggestions and discussions, and added that trauma, abuse, and neglect would be good future topics for the committee to discuss. Ms. Fory-Fino shared that PIP helped her become a greater advocate for herself.

## Other Business

There was no other business.

## Adjournment

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Shay Ruff made the **MOTION** to adjourn, and Ms. Nadia Rauhala **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** to adjourn at 2:21 p.m. carried unanimously.

# IC Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2026

## Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
James Hall Thomas Leach Mick Sladic Richard Kriner Tim Capoldo Kristie Bowie-Young Adrian Frierson Matthew Shapiro Jeff Katz (Virtual) Melanie Rice (Virtual) Marcus Allen	Dana Taormina Amaan Karim	Jason Withers Nia Harrison Teri Morgan

## Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

A meeting of the Investment Committee was held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, in Richmond, Virginia, on June 3, 2026. Investment Committee Chair, Matthew Shapiro, called the meeting to order at 12:50pm.

## Approval of Minutes

Mr. Shapiro asked if there were any questions/concerns with the March 2026 meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mr. Thomas Leach made a **MOTION** to approve the June 2026 meeting minutes, and Mr. James Hall **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

## Approval of Self-Advocate Scholarship Funding Request #1

Mr. Jason Withers, Director of Administration, discussed the first self-advocate scholarship funding request application received from The Come As You Are organization, referencing attachment BD-4. Mr. Withers advised that the funding request from the applicant was for \$2,000, which was intended to support the attendance of 5 self-advocates through a program entitled, “Work Ready, Future Strong,” designed to empower adults with disabilities with the skills, confidence, and tools needed for sustained employment success and independent living. The program will take place from 9/9/26 – 12/2/26, at Virginia Wesleyan University. Additional discussion ensued.

Mr. Shapiro called for a motion to recommend approval of the self-advocate scholarship funding request #1 from the Come As You Are organization, in the amount of \$2,000. Mr. Richard Kriner made this **MOTION**, and Ms. Kristie Bowie-Young **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

## Approval of Self-Advocate Scholarship Funding Request #2

Mr. Withers discussed the second self-advocate scholarship funding request application received from The Come As You Are organization, referencing attachment BD-5. Mr. Withers advised that the funding request from the applicant was for \$2,000, which was intended to support the attendance of 4 self-advocates through a program entitled, “Life Skills BRIDGE,” designed to equip young adults and adults in the disability community with the skills, confidence, and practical training needed to build independence and advocate for themselves in every area of life. The program will take place from 9/22/26 – 11/12/26, at Virginia Wesleyan University. Additional discussion ensued.

Mr. Shapiro called for a motion to recommend approval of the self-advocate scholarship funding request #2 from the Come As You Are organization, in the amount of \$2,000. Mr. Marcus Allen made this **MOTION**, and Mr. Justin Sheets **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

## Approval of DARS 12-month No-Cost Extension

Mr. Withers discussed the no-cost extension request received from the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) with committee members, in connection with the employment project titled “Expanding Capacity for Customized Employment Services to Virginians with Disabilities.” Mr. Withers explained that the extension request is for twelve months, which would change the end date of the project from September 30, 2026 to September 30, 2027. The request was made due to procurement-related contracting delays during the first year of the grant project. This additional time would afford the grantee the ability to complete the remaining project activities, which Mr. Withers and Mr. Kriner discussed with the committee members, referencing the supplemental packet. Further discussion ensued.

Ms. Bowie-Young made a **MOTION** to recommend that the full Board approve the twelve month no-cost extension request received from DARS, in connection with the customized employment project. Mr. Marcus Allen **SECONDED**. Mr. Kriner and Mr. Hall abstained from the vote. The **MOTION** was carried.

## Review of Competitive Proposal Application

Mr. Withers thanked the Grant Review Team (GRT) members Kristie Bowie-Young, James Hall, and Dana Taormina for their review of proposal applications. He then discussed that five proposal applications were received in response to the Pre-ETS RFP. Total requested funds were approximately \$914,789 (exclusive of match dollars). Available funding this grant cycle was limited to approximately \$200,000. Mr. Withers explained that after extensive review, the Grant Review Team (GRT) chose a proposal to recommend to the Board for funding that totaled \$200,000, which was received from the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV). Mr. Withers provided committee members with an overview of the proposed grant project, and

GRT members, Mr. James Hall and Ms. Bowie-Young provided additional information pertaining to the recommendation of funding for ECVV's proposal. Additional discussion ensued.

## **Grants and Contracts Expenditure Monitoring**

Mr. Withers provided updates on recent expenditures regarding three active grant projects, referencing attachment IC 3-1: Expanding Capacity for Customized Employment Services to Virginians with Disabilities grant with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; From Foundation to Future: Advancing Self-Advocacy through Local Advisors grant with The Arc of Virginia; and Enhancing Inclusive Dental Care in Virginia: Statewide Training and Mobile Demonstration of Sensory-Adapted Dental Environments (SADE) grant with Virginia Commonwealth University.

## **Committee Input of FFY 2027 Grant Activities**

Mr. Withers and Ms. Nia Harrison, Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, discussed with committee members which projects to prioritize for FFY 2027. Ms. Harrison explained that recent federal guidance indicated that DD Councils were only needed to submit one workplan for FFY 2027 (vs having to submit two for FFY 2027 and 2028). Mr. Withers and Ms. Harrison discussed the following proposed projects for 2027:

1. Educate students without disabilities on how to be inclusive to reduce exclusion and bullying;
2. Provide training and technical assistance to employers on how to create inclusive working environments and obtain their commitment to hiring people with developmental disabilities;
3. Educate pediatricians on (1) how to use developmental disability diagnostic tools, and (2) disability resources like early intervention services and waivers, including disseminating related information to medical offices for sharing with patients; and
4. Educate people with developmental disabilities about nutrition and/or food preparation.

Following discussion, committee members indicated they would like to prioritize funding projects in 2027 which would educate students without disabilities on how to be inclusive to reduce exclusion and bullying.

## **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:29 pm.

# PAC Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2026

## Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Ann Bevan Parthy Dinora Karen Grizzard Kyle Jones Amber Lee Deanna Parker Lindsay Pearse Eric Raff Erika Rogers Mary Vought	Ginny Conroy Samantha Hollins	Nia Harrison Jennifer Krajewski Teri Morgan Linh Thi Nguyen

## Call to Order & Introductions

A meeting of Policy Advisory Committee was held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. The Chair, Ms. Karen Grizzard, called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. The Chair invited members to introduce themselves.

## Approval of March 4, 2026, Minutes

Ms. Erika Rogers made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Deanna Parker **SECONDED**. The motion was passed unanimously.

## Executive Committee Update

Ms. Jennifer Krajewski briefed members on the Executive Committee meeting. Highlights included: The Board is hosting a Language and Disability Access training for a second cohort. The training began in April and includes participants from Health and Human Resources agencies, Chesterfield Community Services Board, City of Virginia Beach Community Services Board, Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board, and Richmond Behavioral Health Authority. The Board has a new Grants and Contracts Administrator Aiesha Poole. Dr. Penni Sweetenburgh-Lee and the Training and Alumni Development Unit are preparing for a new Partners in Policymaking cohort this upcoming September. Director of Administration Jason Withers is working with procurement on various activities.

Ms. Karen Grizzard added that the Executive Committee had a tribute for Ms. Morgan, who will soon be retiring from her position.

## Discussion of Policy Activities for FFYs 2027-31

Ms. Nia Harrison reviewed the potential policy activities for the Board's new state plan. She asked members to provide feedback on which activities the Board should prioritize since the Board has limited resources.

Members liked the potential activity “Research community services available through non-Medicaid funding sources and disseminate related information to the public.” Ms. Parthy Dinora raised concerns that people with developmental disabilities (DD) who do not want or do not qualify for Medicaid waiver services still need supports in areas such as social services and general housing. Members discussed the geographic differences in available resources in Virginia. This research would need to identify local resources and whether they can be replicated in other areas. Ms. Parker stated that messaging about services needs to change to increase positivity and reduce the fatigue of people who don’t have waivers. People can have a good life without a DD waiver.

Ms. Lindsay Pearse requested further explanation of “Assess value-based purchasing model for waivers.” Ms. Harrison explained that this purchasing model requires making a payment per each positive outcome instead of payment per service. Members discussed the benefits and unintended consequences of such a model. Some states have successfully implemented this model. Virginia previously used this model for nursing homes, but some nursing homes exploited the model.

Members also expressed interest in the activities “Support the connection of people with DD who need housing to affordable housing units in a timely fashion” and “Assess K-12 school efforts to support career and technical education, inc. trades, and identify any related barriers.”

## Discussion and Approval of Proposed 2027 Assessment Topics

Ms. Harrison and Ms. Krajewski requested feedback on the proposed 2027 assessment topics: 1) Residential Services, Including the Community Housing Guide Service 2) and Day/Employment Services in the DD Waiver. These topics were the 2020 assessment topics, which addressed Medicaid changes due to the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement. The 2027 assessments would provide an update on data, what Medicaid changes worked or didn’t work, loss of funding for services after the COVID-19 pandemic ended, workforce shortages, and assessment recommendation implementation.

Mr. Eric Raff requested that the Residential Services assessment cover the lack of services for deaf people in group homes. Staff in group homes do not know sign languages. The Board could recommend the creation of providers that specialize in housing only deaf people, to create an accessible community for them. Ms. Harrison commented that the Board did receive public comments on this idea.

Ms. Bevan made a **MOTION** to approve the 2027 assessment topics and bring it to the full Board for final approval. Ms. Rogers **SECONDED**. The motion was passed unanimously.

## Update on Assessments

Ms. Krajewski reminded members that she provided an update on the 2026 assessment recommendations during the full Board morning meeting. The full assessment should be completed and printed by July 1.

## **Update on Liaison Activities**

Ms. Krajewski referred members to the Quarterly Liaison Activities table on Attachment PAC 6-2 of the June Board packet. She highlighted Board staff's work with The Arc of Virginia and VACIL in creating one flyer on "Why Developmental Disability Matters in Virginia Law" and a second flyer on the importance of consistent service rates. These flyers were given to lawmakers and stakeholders. Ms. Harrison continues to advocate for certification of Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). About half of ICF/IIDs are now certified.

## **Other Business/Discussion**

Ms. Grizzard opened the floor for members to suggest topics for future presentations. Ms. Deanna Parker suggested a presentation on "Dignity of Risk." Members expressed interest on this topic, as several members were unfamiliar with the term.

Ms. Grizzard reminded members that this would be her last meeting as committee Chair and as a Board member. She was honored to serve in the committee and on the Board.

## **Adjourn**

Ms. Grizzard adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.