

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA)

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council Meeting

VOPA Conference Room – Richmond, VA

Final Minutes

April 16, 2011

Members Present	Jackie Brown, Elaine Caudill, Van Johnson, Sandra Musselwhite, Mike Newcomb (Chair), Yvette Lane, Ali Parker (Vice-Chair), Sara Singhas
Members Absent	Byron Stith
Guests Present	Elizabeth Priaulx (VOPA Governing Board member), Ronita Wilson
Staff Present	Sherry Confer (Deputy Director), Kim Mendella (Executive Assistant) <i>For portions:</i> Colleen Miller (Executive Director), Steven Traubert (Staff Attorney)
Call to Order / Introductions	Mike Newcomb, Chair, called the meeting to order. Mr. Newcomb asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
Public Comment	There was no public comment.
Review of January 2011 Meeting Minutes	Mr. Newcomb referred the Council to review January 2011 meeting minutes. With no changes to be made, Elaine Caudill made a MOTION to accept the minutes as written. Yvette Lane SECONDED the MOTION to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.
Employment Rights for People with Non-Obvious Disabilities	Steven Traubert, VOPA Staff Attorney, talked about the employment protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA).
Executive Director's Report	2nd Quarter Progress on Objectives Report Colleen Miller, Executive Director, talked about the "pipeline" problem of individuals with mental illness in jails waiting to be transferred to mental health hospitals for treatment and the hospitals not discharging people in a timely manner. VOPA is addressing this issue at every point of the process. VOPA has seen a positive influence of Crisis Intervention Training of police officers in diverting individuals with mental illness away from jails. Ms. Miller discussed mental health courts being piloted in Norfolk as another method to diverting individuals with mental illness away from jail. This pilot mental health court allows individuals to retain their due process rights. VOPA is also addressing issues inside hospitals where there are involuntary treatment orders. VOPA learned there was a reluctance from providers to go back to court to have the involuntary treatment order lifted in instances where a person has regained capacity.

Litigation Report

VOPA represented two defendants to enforce court orders that required the defendants to be transferred from jail to an appropriate hospital to receive mental health treatment to restore their competence to stand trial. In both instances, VOPA filed a Motion for Show Cause Summons against the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) asserting that the Commissioner was in contempt of court for his extended failure to carry out the court's order. The Commissioner quickly transferred the defendants to state operated mental health hospitals. VOPA plans to represent another fifteen defendants in similar cases and file a Motion for Show Cause Summons against the Commissioner in each case.

Greetings from Governing Board

Elizabeth Priaulx introduced herself as a member of the VOPA Governing Board. Ms. Priaulx appreciates the work of the PAIMI Advisory Council. Ms. Priaulx considers the PAIMI Advisory Council as the "voice of the community."

Work Session – PAIMI Advisory Council By-Laws

Sherry Confer, Deputy Director, stated that the by-laws set the parameters of how the Council functions as a group. Members discussed items such as mission, terms, number of members and member representation. Members discussed the federal requirement about having a member who is a parent or guardian of a child who is receiving or has received mental health services.

Other Business

Meeting Date

Saturday, July 16, 2011

Membership

Ms. Confer and Kim Mendella plan to discuss a recruitment strategy to fill the vacancy of a parent or guardian of a child who is receiving or has received mental health services.

Ms. Mendella distributed Council application forms and PAIMI Advisory Council member descriptions for members to distribute in their communities.

PAIMI related grievances

None

Travel Voucher Reminder

Ms. Mendella reminded members to submit their reimbursement forms.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Ali Parker stated that the committee met earlier this month and there was nothing of great significance to report regarding the PAIMI grant.

Resource Development – Sandra Musselwhite talked about VOPA's brainstorming about involvement in fundraising. VOPA is making progress on acquiring an existing 501(c)(3).

Internal Policy Committee – Elaine Caudill attended her first meeting in January and was very appreciative of being able to participate by

phone.

Ms. Confer asked the members to review the draft by-laws and e-mail Ms. Mendella any comments, recommendations, or questions by May 15, 2011.

Ms. Musselwhite asked about creating a "new business" item on the agenda where members could announce major happenings from their communities.

With no further business, Ms. Musselwhite made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lane SECONDED the MOTION to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously

FINAL MINUTES

July 16, 2011

Date

**Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy
Mission Statement**

Through zealous and effective advocacy and legal representation, to: protect and advance legal, human, and civil rights of persons with disabilities; combat and prevent abuse, neglect, and discrimination; and promote independence, choice, and self determination by persons with disabilities.