

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA)

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

Crowne Plaza West – Richmond, VA

**Final Minutes
July 28, 2010**

Members Present	Elaine Caudill, Kathy Harkey, Van Johnson (Secretary), Yvette Lane, Mike Newcomb (Chair), Ali Parker (Vice-Chair), Sara Singhas.
Members Absent	Steven Hornstein, Sandra Musselwhite
Guests Present	For portions: Bill Fuller, Waja Grimm, Chris Harrison, Susan Kalanges (Governing Board Members)
Staff Present	Sherry Confer (Deputy Director), Paula McMahon (Disability Rights Advocate), Kim Ware (Data Analyst) For portions: Clyde Mathews (Managing Attorney)
Call to Order/ Welcome/ Introductions	Mike Newcomb, Chair, called the meeting to order. Mr. Newcomb then asked everyone to introduce themselves.
Public Comment	No public comment was offered.
Review of February 2010 Meeting Minutes	There were no changes or corrections made to the minutes. Elaine Caudill made a MOTION to accept the minutes as written. Van Johnson SECONDED the MOTION. The MOTION carried unanimously.
FY2011 VOPA Objectives	Clyde Mathews, Managing Attorney for Resource Advocacy Unit, explained the process for obtaining input for the development of objectives for the next fiscal year, FY11. Mr. Mathews advised that input came from many sources such as the public and the Advisory Councils. Mr. Mathews stated that the Goals and Focus Areas were a three-year plan that had been approved by the Board. Mr. Mathews continued by saying that the PAIMI Advisory Council now has an opportunity to advise and discuss concerns that VOPA can address in FY11. Mr. Mathews indicated that objectives need to be measurable.

Ali Parker stated that she heard her local Community Services Board (CSB) was facing staffing and therapy cuts and that she was concerned about what happens to those consumers who do not have private insurance to get services. Ms. Parker stated some consumers said they were only receiving medications, emergency care, and case management services. Ms. Parker wanted to know if this was happening at other CSBs throughout Virginia. Ms. Confer advised that there was an annual public input survey up on VOPA's website and that Council could tell people in their communities to complete the survey noting specific issues in their communities. Mr. Newcomb added that money was going to the CSBs, but he did not know why funding was cut for staff and services. Ms. Parker requested that Ms. Confer e-mail the link to the VOPA survey to Council members.

Sara Singhas asked if there was a component for educating stakeholder groups that also included providing outreach to indigent defenders. There was a discussion on ways VOPA could give out get information such as through Internet chat rooms and presentations to the Virginia State Bar. Mr. Mathews added that each goal had an outreach component and wanted to know if there were certain target issues VOPA might want to address. Ms. Confer advised that the Director had a blog on the website but that it was in testing phrase. Ms. Confer stated this could be a source for public input. Kathy Harkey asked how often VOPA got out to do outreach and training. Ms. Confer indicated that Institutions Unit staff was very visible in state facilities both formally and informally. Ms. Confer also advised that VOPA had a Speakers Bureau that responded to requests for outreach and training. Mr. Mathews added that VOPA had a high visibility in state facilities but not in jails.

Chris Harrison asked about VOPA's access to state operated facilities. Ms. Confer indicated that it depended on the facility. Ms. Harkey recommended that VOPA do presentations in state facilities, jails, and hospitals.

Paula McMahon explained that all callers to VOPA receive some level of service but that was limited as to what VOPA could do for individuals in jails.

Ms. Singhas suggested that VOPA do more targeted outreach on topics such as increasing employment and providing employment accommodations. Ms. Singhas suggested VOPA do outreach to targeted groups and conduct trainings on topics that

are specific to that targeted group. The Council suggested that VOPA to target businesses about the ADA, or jails to provide family crisis training. Ms. Confer advised that VOPA services were limited to legal rights issues and that outreach and training was done under every goal. The Council wants VOPA to continue training and outreach under every goal.

Mr. Harrison indicated that he felt there were still problems related to barriers to work for recipients of Social Security. Mr. Harrison felt that many people saw a disincentive to work because of a fear of losing their benefits. Van Johnson stated that many people were uninformed about being able to retain benefits while working. Ms. Confer said that the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) grant dealt with work incentives and that PABSS could be used to address some of these issues. Ms. Parker indicated that Social Security overpayments were also an issue.

Yvette Lane asked what the process was once input was obtained for the objectives. Ms. Confer stated that the Council minutes would go to the VOPA Managers and their input would be used to help compile the objectives. Recommended objectives would be presented to the VOPA Board and they would vote on the new objectives.

Membership and Recruitment

Mr. Newcomb suggested that the Council do more to increase recruitment. Ms. Confer advised that there was currently one required vacancy on Council and that was for a parent or guardian of a minor child who has received or is receiving mental health services. Ms. Confer also indicated that Council had suggested having an adolescent on Council but that all the details for that had not been worked out.

NDRN Conference Report

Mr. Newcomb explained that he attended the NDRN (National Disabilities Right Network) Conference. Mr. Newcomb prepared a handout with a conference summary and he shared it with Council. There was some discussion about the various topics reviewed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Ms. Parker stated that there was some carryover money but that it was going to dwindle down. Ms. Parker further stated that the PAIMI grant was fine. Ms. Parker advised that the Board wanted the Council to provide suggestions on how to use the HAVA funds. Ms. Parker said that VOPA was going to do a two week voting rights campaign at assisted living facilities (ALFs) prior to the closing of voting

registration in the second week of October. Ms. Parker said some suggestions had been made on how to spend the HAVA money such as sending out flyers, going door-to-door, and doing outreach to students. Mr. Newcomb told Council if they had suggestions to give them to Ms. Confer.

Public Awareness and Goals Committee – Mr. Newcomb said the members talked about doing more outreach on voting rights in particular to people with mental illness. Mr. Mathews added that other suggestions included increased press releases, the Directors Blog, and an anti-stigma campaign.

Internal Policy Committee – Mr. Harrison said the members reviewed three policies. They were Inclement Weather, Complaints, and one about receiving services from VOPA.

Break

Kim Ware reminded Council members to turn in their travel vouchers.

Ms. Confer thanked everyone for piloting the format of this meeting. Ms. Confer reminded everyone that the meeting on September 18 would be held on a Saturday from 10:00 – 3:00, with an expanded agenda.

Joint Session

VOPA Governing Board, Disabilities Advisory Council and Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council.

Members Present

Disabilities Advisory Council members: Shirley McInnis, Arva Priola, Lisa Ritchie, Mary Jane Sufficool, Linda VanAken, Monica Wiley

Governing Board: Charles Cooper, Bill Fuller, Waja Grimm, Chris Harrison, Maureen Hollowell, Susan Kalanges, Rita Kidd, Darrel Mason, Elizabeth Priaulx, Angela Thanyachareon

Staff Present

Sherry Confer (Deputy Director), Clyde Mathews (Managing Attorney), Colleen Miller (Executive Director), Lisa Shehi (Executive Assistant)

Call to Order

Bill Fuller, Governing Board Chair, called the joint session to order. Mr. Fuller introduced himself as Chair of the Governing Board and this meeting is unique as it is a joint meeting between the VOPA Governing Board, the DAC and PAIMI Advisory Council.

Mission Statement	Mr. Fuller read the VOPA's mission statement.
Public Comment	No public comment was offered
Training Session Critical Incident Reports	<p>Paul Buckley, Managing Attorney for the Institutions Unit, and Kim Ware, Data Analyst, presented to the joint session about Critical Incident Reports (CIRs) received by VOPA from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) operated facilities. VOPA receives CIR reports whenever a death, serious injury, loss of consciousness, or an allegation of sexual assault has occurred. There are several limitations with CIR data as it does not contain episodes of verbal abuse, use of diagnostic equipment with no treatment provided, or episodes where injuries are noted but no treatment provided. VOPA uses the data to look for trends and seeks systemic solutions that could be used in all state operated facilities. For example, there were several incidents over the years where clients ingested latex gloves. VOPA wanted to make sure there was a system in place where latex gloves are accounted for such as being locked in secured places and disposed of properly.</p>
Working Lunch	All present introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their passions.
Reports	<p>Progress on Objectives</p> <p>Colleen Miller, Executive Director, started her discussion on the third quarter Progress on Objectives report by drawing attention to the work VOPA is completing on access to movie theaters. Movie theaters have the option of screening movies with closed captioning. A survey conducted recently by VOPA in the Tidewater area reveals that not a single theater screened a first run movie with captioning. Captioning is available on all movies at no extra cost or work for movie theater employees.</p> <p>Ms. Miller spoke about the recent survey completed on schools that served as voting sites during election periods. VOPA looked at Warren and Mathews county. VOPA plans to have VOPA staff visit assisted living facilities (ALF) that receives auxiliary grant funds in the weeks leading up to voter registration deadline on October 12, 2010.</p> <p>Litigation Report</p> <p>VOPA's case to obtain access to peer review materials has been accepted by the Supreme Court. The action stems from VOPA's attempt to access peer review materials during the investigations</p>

of three incidents at two state operated facilities. In June 2010, the Supreme Court granted VOPA's petition for certiorari and arguments are expected to be heard when the Supreme Court returns to session in October 2010.

PAIMI Advisory Council Report

Mr. Newcomb stated that the PAIMI Advisory Council met that morning and talked about the objectives for FY11. Several themes included outreach and cooperation with community providers, family groups and business groups. The PAIMI Advisory Council was concerned about how to get these groups involved to make progress on VOPA's goals. Mr. Newcomb then talked about the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) Conference he recently attended. Mr. Newcomb noted that VOPA's PAIMI Advisory Council is a very good mix of representatives of the community, which gives a community perspective at every meeting. However, VOPA's PAIMI Advisory Council members need to take the PAIMI Advisory Council's message back to the community. The Council discussed the possibility for members to talk to two to three groups each quarter. These discussions will also help with recruitment of new members.

DAC Report

Ms. McInnis also stated that the DAC met that morning and that they had a work session on the FY11 objectives. The DAC was very concerned about transportation services provided by Logisticare, dental care for adults with disabilities, transition planning in schools, services provided by DRS, confidentiality, accessibility and interpreter, services.

Mr. Fuller adjourned the meeting for Advisory Council members.

FINAL MINUTES

09/18/2010

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.