

**DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)
MEETING
Final Minutes
December 12, 2007**

Members Present: Jesse Chapman, Larry Friedrichsen, Betty Friedrichsen, Julie Palmer, Ed Senft, Elaine Senft, Dave Wilber (Chair)

Members Absent: Van Johnson, Ed Ziegler

Guests Present: Linda VanAken, Monica Wiley

Staff Present: Colleen Miller (Executive Director), Sherry Confer (Deputy Director), Kim Mendella (Executive Assistant), Sophia Nelson (Paralegal), Kalena Ek (Staff Attorney)

**Call to Order/
Welcome/Introductions:** Dave Wilber called the meeting to order at 10:05 and suggested that everyone give a brief introduction.

Public Comment: No public comment was offered

Agenda Adoption: Dave Wilber polled the Council to inquire if anything needed to be added to the Agenda, Mr. Wilber concluded that "silence is consent" and the Agenda was adopted. No motion was made.

**September 2007
Minutes:** Elaine Senft indicated that on page 11 of the draft minutes that "to treat" should be inserted between "difficult" and "people." Mr. Wilber also indicated that on the first page his last name was spelled incorrectly. With the corrections, Mrs. Senft made a MOTION to approve the minutes as amended and Larry Friedrichsen SECONDED the MOTION. The MOTION passed with unanimous consent.

EPSDT Presentation Sophia Nelson and Kalena Ek led a presentation on Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment. The presentation was well received and generated a lot of interest and questions from the Advisory Council.

**Executive Director
Update:** Colleen Miller started her report to the Council by announcing that both the ARC of Virginia and NAMI

have new directors and Ms. Miller believes that this is a good development and look forward to working with them in the future.

Ms. Miller then referred to the Progress on Objectives report in the DAC packet. This report contains all of the work VOPA completed in the last fiscal year and it includes all of the grants VOPA works under. Ms. Miller addressed the concern of the Council over the dropped goal of outreach by stating that outreach has been absorbed by other goals and the focus is on more strategic and targeted outreach. Ms. Miller also talked about access to voting and the issues VOPA addressed and currently looking at.

Ms. Miller highlighted several cases from the Litigation Report that VOPA worked on in the past year.

Work Session - DAC Annual Report

Sherry Confer stated that at the request of the Governing Board, the DAC has to complete an annual report based on comments regarding VOPA's work over the past year.

Goal - People with disabilities are free from abuse and neglect

Ms. Confer started the discussion based on previous meetings where DAC members stated that VOPA should be balanced in the review and monitoring of abuse in neglect in both the training facilities and the communities. Mr. Wilber was concerned with the fragmented reporting system for Adult Protective Services (APS) and highly encouraged a centralized reporting process. Mrs. Senft was concerned about oversight in group homes where individuals can be left unattended and recommends that VOPA should continue and intensify its work in this area. Ed Senft brought up the issue of dismissed staff members being able to gain employment in other facilities. Mr. Senft advised that there should be some method tracking dismissed employees by creating a registry that can be accessed by all employers that provide care/support for people with disabilities.

Goal - People with disabilities are employed to their maximum potential

Monica Wiley expressed her frustration obtaining gainful employment. Ms. Confer stated that this is partly the reason why VOPA is in business to help address employer discrimination. Ms. Confer paraphrased the discussion by stating: "DAC supports VOPA's efforts and that the employment clinic needs to continue. VOPA needs to continue to educate employees of their rights."

Trainings

The Council discussed possibilities for future training. The Council is interested Assistive Technology and Mrs. Friedrichsen is interested in learning more about all the grants VOPA works under.

Working Lunch

Governing Board Reports:

Elizabeth Priaulx started her report noting a possible Board retreat at the end of April. The retreat agenda is still being discussed and that it may be a good idea to invite members of the Advisory Council to attend in order to gain feedback on membership issues. Ms. Priaulx talked about the Finance committee and how VOPA's financial status is looking good and thanked VOPA and Ms. Miller for doing a good job of providing this information. The FY08 Goals and Objectives were adopted and with feedback from the Advisory Councils, a preamble was included that VOPA will incorporate training, education, and promotion of self-advocacy will be over-arching to all goals and not just one particular goal or focus area.

Ms. Priaulx mentioned briefly what happened in the Internal Policy Committee. She also stated that the job description of the Executive Director was approved.

Governing Board Committee Reports

Mr. Wilber stated that Ms. Priaulx in her report to the Council essentially covered everything concerning the individual committee reports.

Other Business

Membership

Ms. Confer stated that there are two guests who already submitted applications. Ms. Confer talked about the process for appointing new members. The applicants and Council discussed the applicant's interest in Council membership.

Meeting Dates

Mr. Wilber made the decision to continue with meeting the second Wednesday of every third month. The meeting dates for FY08 are as follows:

March 12

June 11

September 10

December 10

Mrs. Senft made a MOTION to accept the meeting dates for FY08. Julie Palmer SECONDED the MOTION. The MOTION passed with unanimous approval.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Wilber asked the Council if anyone wanted to make a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Friedrichsen made the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 pm. Jessie Chapman SECONDED the MOTION. The MOTION was passed with unanimous approval.

FINAL MINUTES

March 12, 2008

Date