

**FINAL MINUTES
PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI)
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
August 17, 2006**

- Members Present:** Chris Harrison, Irene Rebholz, Lisa Ritchie, Mark Stevens, Byron Stith
- Members Absent:** Lisa DuVal, Scott DuVal, Ward Marsteller
- Guests Present:** Ann Benner, C. W. Tillman
- Staff Present:** Colleen Miller, Lisa Shehi
Tracy Manley, Julie Triplett (for portions)
- Welcome/Introductions:** Irene Rebholz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00. Ms. Rebholz requested that all members, guests, and staff introduce themselves.
- Public Comment** There was no public comment offered.
- Council Training:**
• **Para-transit Issues** Julie Triplett, VOPA Disability Rights Advocate, discussed the rights of individuals with disabilities regarding para-transit services. Ms. Triplett distributed a “commonly asked questions” handout and provided more detailed information through discussion and the opportunity for questions and answers from the meeting attendees.
- Approval of February 2006 Meeting Minutes:** After review of the February 16, 2006 minutes and noting one change, Chris Harrison made a MOTION to adopt the minutes as amended. Byron Stith SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION carried by unanimous vote.
- Board of Directors Update** On behalf of Brent Brown, Chair of the VOPA Board, Colleen Miller updated the Council on Board activities since the February PAIMI Council meeting. Ms. Miller shared that the Board submitted a proposal for a pilot Ombudsman Program, focusing on early childhood, but the program did not receive funding in the 2006 general assembly. Additionally, new officers were voted on at the April meeting. Brent Brown and Susan Kalanges were elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Chris Harrison and Pat Myers were introduced as newly appointed members at the July Board meeting.
- Executive Director’s Update**
• **3rd Quarter Progress for FY 2006 Goals and Focus Areas** Ms. Miller stated that VOPA has conducted a testing program regarding taxi cab accessibility for individuals with service animals. She shared that the program utilizes an individual using a service animal as well as a “spotter.”

Additionally, Ms. Miller noted that VOPA staff performed an accessibility study in downtown Roanoke in early July. Much of the area surveyed was in the historic district and several were found to be inaccessible. VOPA provided technical assistance letters to the businesses identified.

Working Lunch

During lunch, the Council discussed recent article regarding the planned prohibition of smoking in the state mental health facilities; the VOPA employment clinic.

- **Litigation Report**

Ms. Miller referred Council members to the Litigation Report for updates on cases involving legal action. She explained that VOPA has been involved in several cases through “friend of the court” (amicus) briefs.

- **Financial Report**

Ms. Miller shared that the Board’s Finance and Resource Development Committee has reviewed a recent audit and explained that one of the Committee’s highest priorities is to create financial reports that will be more understandable and useable by the Board and Councils.

Annual Priority Planning Council Feedback--Objectives

Ms. Miller directed the Council to the Public Input Survey provided in the Council package. Ms. Miller explained that the development of priorities is required by each of VOPA’s funding sources. Goals and Focus Areas are identified for a two-year period; Objectives are subject to annual revision. Council members reviewed the current Objectives and discussed areas of continued need.

Membership

- **Officers**

In the absence of a Nominations Committee, Byron Stith made a MOTION to nominate Irene Rebholz as Chair of the PAIMI Council. Mark Stevens SECONDED the MOTION. Ms. Rebholz made a MOTION to nominate Lisa Ritchie as Vice Chair. Byron Stith SECONDED the MOTION. There being no further discussion from the floor, nominations were closed. Both nominations passed by unanimous vote.

- **Recruitment**
- **Retention**
- **Development**

Ms. Rebholz shared that she has discussed membership and provided applications at the local community service board. She will be presenting the opportunity to the CSB Board meeting in the near future. Chris Harrison and Lisa Ritchie noted that they have submitted applications for Council membership to Sherry Confer. Council members discussed outreach to various geographic regions within Virginia and possible obstacles for attendance at meetings in areas outside of their home region.

- **Closed Session**

Mark Stevens made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting into a closed session for the purpose of conducting business pertaining to appointment recommendation. This meeting is specifically authorized to be conducted in closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia.

Lisa Ritchie SECONDED the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

After discussion in closed session, Chris Harrison made a MOTION to certify that only such public business as that identified in the MOTION to close the meeting was heard or considered. All Council members affirmed.

Ms. Rebholz will share the decision of the Council regarding Mr. Tillman's application with Sherry Confer, VOPA Policy Director and liaison to the PAIMI Council.

Other Business

- **Travel Voucher Reminder** Ms. Rebholz reminded Council members to submit Travel Vouchers to Lisa Shehi at the end of the meeting.
- **Meeting Calendar** Council members set dates and discussed locations for meetings in 2007. Meetings will be held
February 15, 2007 - Richmond
May 17, 2007 – Location to be determined
August 15, 2007 – Location to be determined
November 14, 2007 – Location to be determined

The Council will determine sites for future meetings on November 16, 2006.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mark Stevens made a MOTION to adjourn. Chris Harrison SECONDED the MOTION and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m. The next meeting of the PAIMI Advisory Council will be held November 16, 2006. The location will be announced.

FINAL MINUTES:

_____ November 16, 2006