

**PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI)
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**FINAL MINUTES
May 8, 2008**

Members Present	Ali Parker; Michael Newcomb (Vice-Chair); CW Tillman (Chair)
Members Absent	None
Guests Present	Ann Bailey; Jackie Brown; Elaine Caudill; Ronald Forbes; Kathy Harkey; Susan Kalanges (VOPA Governing Board member); Yvette Lane; Edwina Shore
Staff Present	Sherry Confer (Deputy Director); Kim Mendella (Executive Assistant) <i>For portions:</i> Colleen Miller (Executive Director); Paul Buckley (Managing Attorney, Institutions Unit)
Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions	CW Tillman called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Mr. Tillman asked that the Council members, guests and staff present to introduce themselves to the group.
Public Comment	No public comment was offered.
Staff Presentation	Paul Buckley presented on Overview of the State operated Mental Health facilities in Virginia. Staff, members and guests discussed the concerns surrounding the closing of psychiatric beds and the waiting list for admittance to hospitals. The discussion moved to funding concerns for Community Service Boards (CSB) and ability to provide care. The theory presented that as psychiatric beds are closed in mental health hospitals, the money should move to the community and CSBs to provide care. Guests also expressed concern that there is no geriatric facility in Northern Virginia and that these patients have to go elsewhere in the State away from family and other support networks.
Review of February 2008 Meeting Minutes	Mr. Tillman asked the Council if any corrections to the February 2008 minutes are required. With no

corrections, Ali Parker made a MOTION to accept the February 2008 minutes as presented. Michael Newcomb SECONDED the MOTION. The Motion carried unanimously.

VOPA Governing Board of
Director's Report

Susan Kalanges reported that the Board met April 25 for the Board meeting and April 26 was the Board Retreat. Both the meeting and retreat had VOPA Governing Board members, VOPA staff and PAIMI Advisory Council members (DAC members were invited to attend). Everyone was split into small groups and discussed various topics. Discussions included VOPA's perception from the public at large, what the retreat attendee's thought about the perception of VOPA and how to make that perception as good as possible. The retreat attendees also discussed about improving the performance of VOPA and how to strengthen the relationship between the Board and the Advisory Councils. Ms. Kalanges announced the creation of an adhoc Board committee about the Councils that will include DAC and PAIMI Advisory Council members.

Mr. Tillman announced that Ms. Kalanges was elected as the Governing Board Chair and Pat Meyer was elected as Governing Board Vice-Chair. Terms for the officers begin June 1, 2008.

Working Lunch

Mr. Tillman set aside the agenda from 12:00 to 12:45 for a networking lunch.

Executive Director's Update

Sherry Confer referred to the Progress and Priorities report in the PAIMI Advisory Council packet while the Council waited for Colleen Miller to give her report via telephone. Ms. Confer told the members and guests about VOPA, how VOPA is organized and what each unit is responsible for.

The Advisory Council members asked Ms. Miller about certain details in the report, such as deaths that occurred in facilities and examples of abuse.

Michael Newcomb asked Ms. Miller to clarify what an Advance Directive is and if it can be incorporated into a WRAP Plan. Ms. Miller informed the meeting attendees that Virginia does not have a statute for Psychiatric Advanced Directives. Virginia does have a law on

Medical Advanced Directives. Virginia is at a preliminary/educational stage on having Psychiatric Advanced Directive.

Other Business

- Membership

Mr. Tillman led a discussion on the barriers of becoming a member of the PAIMI Advisory Council. The major concern was costs involved in travel and gas was prohibitive for many guests to attend the meeting. Mr. Tillman suggested a new proposed appointment process for Advisory Council appointments.

Current Process: Application → staff reviews → phone interview → invite to meeting as a guest → after meeting Council makes recommendation to Board Chair → Chair decides to appoint → applicant becomes member and now is eligible for reimbursement at next meeting

Proposed Process: Application → staff reviews (ensure PAIMI requirements) → Council Chair and Board Chair discusses → Board chair approves appointment → phone interview → invite applicant to meeting as guest → Council votes → applicant becomes member and is eligible for reimbursement for trip home

The reimbursement of travel related expenses are also prohibitive for current members. Members are reimbursed after the meeting and it can take up to three weeks to process. A suggestion was to have members reimbursed at the meeting so they can at least have money for the trip back home.

Mr. Tillman said that the next step would be to create a matrix of current members according to the federal PAIMI Advisory Council membership requirement. With use of the matrix, the Advisory Council and VOPA staff can strategically target certain populations (ethnic, multi-cultural, geographic) who do not have representation on the Council.

Mr. Tillman asked the Council if there was a MOTION to present the new proposed appointment process to the Governing Board to review. Ms. Parker made a MOTION and Mr. Newcomb SECONDED the MOTION. The MOTION carried unanimously.

- Orientation Binders Ms. Mendella presented the Council members with orientation binders. New Advisory Council members had expressed in the past not knowing what their role as members of the PAIMI Advisory Council was and how the Advisory Councils fit into VOPA and the VOPA Governing Board.

- Other Business Mr. Tillman surveyed the guests present if they were interested joining the PAIMI Advisory Council.

Kathy Harkey expressed her interest but said she could not commit to 4 meetings a year due to work and other commitments.

Edwina Shore also is interested to become a member.

Elaine Caudill expressed interest and said she has no trouble taking time off work for a noble cause.

Yvette Lane took an application form and would like to take some time before committing herself to the Council.

Adjournment

Ms. Parker made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm. Mr. Newcomb SECONDED the MOTION.

FINAL MINUTES

08/14/2009

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