

**Virginia State Rehabilitation Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 09, 2010**

A meeting of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on August 9, 2010 at the DRS Headquarters Building in Richmond, Virginia.

**Members Present:** Karen Baugh, Charles Benagh (teleconference), Gregory Coleman, Sandra Cook, Matthew Deans, Daniel DeBoer, Charles Downs, Shannon McManus Jones, Sarah Liddle, Toney Lineberry, James Rothrock (teleconference), Cherie Takemoto, Karen Gregory-Williams, Florence Watt, Celia Yette (teleconference)

**Members Absent:** Stephanie Colorado, Donna Kay Graff, Kathleen Maybee, Marianne Moore

**Others Present:** Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Scott Fraley, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Quality Assurance Analyst; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Doug Powell, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired SRC Chair; Ernie Steidle, Chief Operating Officer; Barbara Burkett, Lead Analyst; Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst; Matthew Doum, Senior Analyst; and Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Director of the George Washington University TACE Center.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting and noted that the addendum to the minutes includes the written reports of the SRC members.

Ms. Watt announced that she had received a written request from Chuck Benagh, James Rothrock, and Celia Yette to participate by teleconference because of a medical condition/disability that prevented their attendance.

**Matters of Public Comment:** There were no comments from the public.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Karen Gregory-Williams provided the report of the 2011 SRC Chair and Vice-Chair Nominating Committee. Charles Downs was nominated for Chair. Toney Lineberry and Sandra Cook were nominated for Vice-Chair. Mr. Lineberry announced his desire not to be considered for Vice-Chair. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to elect Charles Downs as Chair and Sandra Cook as Vice-Chair of the SRC for 2011.

Sarah Liddle provided the report of the Planning Committee for the SRC November Retreat and distributed a draft agenda. The Council decided to hold the Retreat in Richmond. Maureen McGuire-Kuletz offered the assistance of the George Washington

University (GWU) TACE Center in planning and facilitating the retreat. The Planning Committee will meet with staff of the GWU TACE to further develop the agenda. Dr. McGuire-Kuletz announced that the GWU TACE will be holding a conference call on August 30th for SRC representatives from Region III.

Matthew Deans expressed his willingness to serve as the next Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee.

Chairperson Watt presented her 2010 SRC Chairperson's Leadership Recognition Award to Cherie Takemoto, Sarah Liddle, Karen Baugh, and Marianne Moore.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Rothrock recognized Cherie Takemoto and Karen Baugh, outgoing members of the SRC, for their outstanding years of service on the SRC. He also recognized Florence Watt for her exceptional leadership as the 2010 SRC Chair.

The Commissioner thanked Maureen McGuire-Kuletz for the assistance of the GWU TACE Center in facilitating the Vocational Evaluator Conference and assisting the Education Services Unit with their strategic planning.

On August 5, 2010, Joe Ashley, Department of Rehabilitative Services, Jennifer McDonough, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Weston R. Thiss, Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital, presented at the Office of Special Education Programs Conference on "Creating Effective Collaborative Transition Models for Youth through Business and Community Partnerships". Afterwards, others shared their perspective on the values of the Project SEARCH model for community-based training of transition age youth. RSA Commissioner Ruttledge cited Virginia's Project SEARCH program in her remarks on the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Five new Project SEARCH programs will be developed across the Commonwealth in the coming year.

The Commissioner reviewed the Federal Fiscal Year 2010 performance data for the vocational rehabilitation program. The program is starting to see a positive increase in performance.

The Commissioner contacted Robert Leber, Virginia Workforce Council Chair, about securing a representative from the Virginia Workforce Council to serve on the SRC. Mr. Leber will attend the November SRC meeting and seek a Workforce Council member to be permanently appointed to the SRC.

The Commissioner is working with Linda Nablo, Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Aging, to identify federal funding to support the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) across the Commonwealth. The ADRC's are designed to streamline access to long-term care and provide states with an opportunity to effectively integrate the full range of long-term supports and services into a single, coordinated system. The Commissioner sees a natural cooperative relationship between the Centers

for Independent Living and the Area Agencies on Aging in this arena. Commissioner Rothrock also is working with Ms. Nablo on Secretary Hazel's initiative to develop a Blueprint for Livable Communities to be presented to the General Assembly by June 30, 2011. This Blueprint will address the comprehensive needs of older Virginians and people with disabilities regarding livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities.

President Obama has issued an Executive Order to enhance the hiring of people with disabilities in the federal government. The Commissioner is hopeful that DRS' "fast track" approach to our vocational rehabilitation program will lead to employment of our consumers in these positions.

### **Council Roundtable**

The Statewide Independent Living Council, the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center, the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, the Department of Education, and the Virginia Assistive Technology Advisory Council reports were submitted in writing and are attached.

### **DRS Program Report**

Ernie Steidle reported on the status of the budget for State Fiscal Year 2010 and provided members with a detailed budget breakdown. He noted that 200 Disability Determination Services Analysts have been hired across the Commonwealth to help with claims being received from other states. In addition, DRS will be working on strategies to address a shortage of state matching funds for the VR program and may look to the SRC for support in the implementation of these strategies. John Thaniel has been hired as the agency's new Fiscal Director.

### **External Affairs Committee Report**

Danny DeBoer, Committee Chair, made the following report:

Daniel Ross, DRS Webmaster, provided a demonstration of changes to the SRC Website. The content has been reorganized and new information has been added. It is now more user friendly.

The SRC needs to begin working on the development of the 2010 SRC Annual Report. The plan is to have the SRC take a more active role this year in the development of the Report. Charles Downs and Shannon McManus Jones volunteered to work on the Report.

Barbara Burkett briefed the Committee on preliminary plans for the development of the next Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. The development of the Needs Assessment is a joint responsibility between the agency and the SRC. DRS will be partnering with the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired and its SRC on the

development of the Needs Assessment. Gregory Coleman, Florence Watt, and Daniel DeBoer agreed to serve as the SRC representatives on this project. Vanessa Rakestraw will also be working on the project.

Danny DeBoer congratulated Vanessa Rakestraw, External Affairs Committee Policy Advisor and Staff Support, on obtaining her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration.

### **Internal Affairs Committee**

Matthew Deans, on behalf of Committee Chair Karen Baugh, made the following reports:

**State Plan Subcommittee:** The 2011 State Plan was submitted to RSA before June 30 and DRS is awaiting approval of the Plan from RSA. Liz Smith discussed with the Subcommittee utilizing a different timeframe to develop the next State Plan. It would begin with an evaluation of the VR program in November.

**Consumer Satisfaction:** The Subcommittee working with Mable Fleming developed an action plan to provide a means of ensuring that survey results from the assessment of consumer satisfaction with VR services are utilized by Field Rehabilitation Services (FRS) staff for continuous improvement. The Council discussed the Plan and approved its content, which includes providing the Regional Directors and FRS Managers with mid-year preliminary information about the survey results. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the 2009 Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report.

**Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC):** Toney Lineberry stated that he and Chuck Benagh had discussed the draft of the WWRC Blueprint for Success III with Rick Sizemore, WWRC Director. The Blueprint will be shared with the Council members for their review and discussed in more detail at the November meeting.

**Service Providers:** Matthew Deans stated that the development of a “report card” for Employment Service Organizations has been incorporated into the 2011 State Plan. The “report card” will be developed jointly with representatives from the Employment Services Organizations and DRS staff.

**Hearing Officers:** Matthew Deans and Toney Lineberry briefed the Council on the process of reviewing the bids for the Hearing Officers’ contracts. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the qualifications of the bidders and the recommendations of the Subcommittee. When members came out of Executive Session, a motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to award a contract to Barbara Byers, CRC, and Lt. Col. Regina Kane, Esq. Mr. Deans and Mr. Lineberry thanked Mary Lutkenhaus, Appeals Coordinator, for her excellent assistance in facilitating the Hearing Officer Invitation for Bids process.

**Unfinished Business:** None

### **New Business**

Daniel Ross, DRS Webmaster, presented a preview of the new DRS website and entertained questions from the Council members on the website.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

## **ROUNDTABLE REPORTS SUBMITTED**

### **Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Report to the Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC) August 9, 2010**

The SILC quarterly business meeting was held July 18, 2010 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC in conjunction with the National Independent Living Conference (NCIL).

- Maureen Hollowell, representing VACIL, provided an overview and progress report on the SPIL Accomplishments for Goal II Part B/Community Integration Project.

Some key points made:

Since January 2010 the following outcomes have been achieved:

235 people with disabilities trained about housing planning process

91 people with disabilities providing public comment on Plans

78 groups trained about housing planning ( DSB,AAA,CSB)

53 entitlement Area agencies and PHAs provided data about local needs of people with disabilities

17 PHA Plans analyzed and commented on

17 Consolidated Plans analyzed and commented on

7 Entitlement Area policies and practices improved or expanded

7 PHA policies and practices improved or expanded

10 entities used the Toolkit for planning

28 PHAs provided technical assistance to improve their marketing of accessible housing

114 organizations trained about MFP

459 people trained about housing rights

- The SILC officers for October 1,2010 – September 30, 2010

Jack Brandt, Chair

David Barrett, Vice Chair

Raymond Kenney, Treasurer

Karen Michalski-Karney, Secretary

- 2011 SILC Meeting Schedule  
January 2011 – Richmond/RIL  
April 2011 – Winchester CIL/Access  
July 2011 – Clinch Valley or BRILC (Roanoke)  
October 2011 – Richmond/RIL

- SRC/SILC Joint Meeting Plans



The SRC retreat is in November and there had been discussions about the SRC/SILC having a joint meeting. Based on past cooperative meetings between the two Councils, the SILC suggests that the Executive Committees of the two councils along with any other group with a common interest as deemed appropriate meet to lay the groundwork for a potential joint meeting.

Submitted by: Sarah A. Liddle  
SILC Liaison to SRC

**PEATC Parent Center and Next Steps Transition Program**  
**Submitted by Cherie Takemoto**  
**August 9, 2010**

**Excellence in Transition Programming:** At the annual conference of RSA Funded parent centers sponsored by the Technical Assistance on Transition and Rehabilitation Activities (TATRA) in July PEATC was presented an award for excellence in transition programming. TATRA awards one parent center annually.

**Webisodes:** we are pleased to sponsor and release the first of six webisodes entitled *SPED: Own It!* The series was designed by 15 year old David Aronson, — a whiz kid videographer from Arlington, Virginia — who also happens to be a student receiving special education services. The Webisodes explain the IEP process to youth and others who want the basics of special education from a youth perspective. Each month we will add a new webisode. Come back. Come often to see how David, a 15 year old with experience in special education, entertainingly describes special education with the help of his "special friend". The webisodes are intended to help teens like David learn to communicate better with their own IEP team.

The six **SPED: Own It!** webisodes are:

1. [SPED: Own It! Why Bother](#)
2. [SPED: Own It! The Referral Process](#)
3. **SPED: Own It!** Evaluation and Eligibility
4. **SPED: Own It!** The IEP
5. **SPED: Own It!** Monitoring and Review
6. **SPED: Own It!** Resources and Meet David

**IEP Checklist:** IEP Checklist – version 2 is about to be released. It has new functionality, in addition to adding notes; it will have the ability to print out notes, link to the federal regulations, email notes, and record notes or the meeting.

**Photo Show Presentations:** A series of photo show presentations explaining transition will soon be available on the PEATC website.

PEATC is finalizing our third and final year of transition focused activities funded by the US Dept of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration.

**NEXT STEPS Transition Webinars:** The seminal component of PEATC’s Next Steps Transition Program is a streaming webinar series developed in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University - Rehabilitation Research Training Center (RRTC). The PEATC /RRTC partnership has increased the visibility of the transition webinar products, maximizing our ability to reach youth with disabilities, family members and transition professionals via technology. In FY 2009 11,000 parents, youth, and transition professionals participated in the webinars.

*“I want to try to sit down today to view and listen to the webinars especially the ones on DRS. I feel I need to investigate the outside agencies myself while the school believes and does what they think...The school feels that he might not be found eligible so I need to find out exactly what that means.”* —communication from a parent

*“Thank you for the Guardianship webcast. My husband and I have been debating this issue for two years and after listening to Sue Swenson we have decided against it. Instead, with our son, we are going to engage in ‘supportive decision-making.’ Your webcast opened a new way of thinking for our family.”* – feedback from a parent

“The webinars are also proving to be an invaluable resource for PEATC Information Specialists, the front line responders to questions from young people, family members and professionals throughout the state. The webinars assist intakers in becoming and staying current on key issues affecting families of transition-aged youth. A recent request for information from a Director of Special Education in the rural SW corner of Virginia was addressed in detail by directing him to one of the archived webinars. The Director in turn shared the webinar with his staff – rippling the effectiveness of the Information Specialist’s assistance. Another PEATC staff member received this feedback after encouraging a father and teenage son to watch the webinar, “Don’t Leave School Without It-What’s In Your Wallet?”

*“Zach and I talked to each other last night. I get it now that he wants real choices that reflect his hopes – even though I think his hopes might be unattainable. Thank you for featuring the three young people in the webinar – they were my first exposure to young people speaking for themselves.”*

“An unintended benefit of the program has been the positive feedback of the professional community who find the easy to follow format chock full of insightful nuggets that are extremely useful to them in their work.



*"...I just finished watching the first webcast with Dr Laura Owens and wanted to share my thoughts. The information was very helpful. I am the state coordinator for Oregon's Youth Transition Program and Dr. Owens provides an excellent overview of transition and suggestions for people transitioning into competitive or supported employment. I have suggested that our state VR staff access the web site for future webcasts and shared the information with our training coordinator. If the future webcasts are equal in quality to the one today, I know they all will benefit from participating. Please extend my appreciation to all for their work and sharing their expertise. Thank you!"*

### **DBVI Meeting Notes From the June 12, 2010 Quarterly Meeting**

- In the current budget FY 2010, DBVI carried over a surplus of general funds in the amount of \$220,000 from FY 2009.
- There are 50 closed cases with employment outcomes this quarter and there were 63 in the previous year. The numbers are usually low in the first two quarters
- There were 70 individuals who achieved employment outcomes during the first two quarters of FFY 2010. Thirty-eight of those individuals are working more than 28 hours weekly. The average hourly wage at application was \$7.60 with the average weekly earnings being \$355.69. The average hourly wage at closure was \$13.03 with the average weekly earnings being \$409.66. The average age of individuals who went to work was 46. The average number of hours worked per week at closure was 30. Of the 70 individuals who accomplished their employment goal, 56 went to work in competitive settings; seven were self-employed; and two were licensed vendors through the Business Enterprise Program. The average cost of services to individuals who achieved their employment goal was \$9,575.44.
- Of the closed cases with an employment outcome, the percentage that have a wage greater than or equal to the minimum wage is 90%. The federal minimum standard is 35.4%.
- The State plan for FY 2011 has been developed with the assistance of the SRC writing team consisting of Marguerite Bardone, Rick Gonzalez, and Doug Powell. There was one Attachment 4.11(a) Comprehensive Needs Assessment which requires additional information and the plan will be ready for submission.
- A review and discussion of erehab training modules on the State plan was scheduled at 8:30 a.m. for new members and open to all interested members.

With no participation, it was decided that it would be a more viable training to be reviewed at members' leisure. A friendly reminder will be sent monthly to SRC members to review the erehab training modules located at [www.erehab.org](http://www.erehab.org). On Friday, September 17 another one-day orientation for new members will be held which will include tours of the LRC, the Richmond Industries for the Blind, and the Randolph-Sheppard Program training facility.

- This pilot mentoring program is still struggling to find a new approach to move this project forward. The Norfolk regional office staff is working toward implementing this program without the one-year long commitment. The subcommittee is trying to develop a system at the regional office level to make this a resource for blind and visually impaired individuals. Danny DeBoer requested that Joan Carneal email him this information next week.
- Doug Powell stated that The National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) was a very passionate subject for the late Pat Beattie and that he has participated in the Council over the past several years. He expressed a concern that the by-laws are being developed and you must be a member to vote. His major concern is that the voting is done on a yes/no basis and does not allow for input. He requested a volunteer to serve as the DBVI representative when he is not available. Rick Holley inquired as to travel time involved. After discussion, Rick Holley volunteered to serve in this capacity. Doug Powell will send Rick Holley ideas regarding the by-laws.

### **Virginia Department of Education Round Table**

- State Assessment for students with disabilities: VMAST will begin to replace the VGLA. Please go to the following: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative\\_assessments/vmast\\_va\\_mod\\_achievement\\_stds\\_test/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/vmast_va_mod_achievement_stds_test/index.shtml) for more detailed information.
- Dr. Karen Trump is no longer working at VDOE. Dr. Pfeiffer is now providing TA in the areas of VI and Brain Injury.
- The Youth and Parent Summits will take place in November, 2010.
- VDOE and the Partnership for People with Disabilities will support 25 youth and their family members to attend and present at the Forum.
- Twenty-five youth attended a Summer Summit in Washington, DC. The American Civic Center worked with the youth and arranged various visits including a day on the Hill.
- VDOE staff members are working on the following Governor's Work Groups: Virtual School, Charter Schools, and College Laboratory Schools. More information is available at [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/news/news\\_releases/2010/jun28\\_gov.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/news/news_releases/2010/jun28_gov.shtml)

- DRS and some Capital Region LEAs will work together so that more students will be able to take the WorkKeys Test during the 2010-2011 SY. Students may earn a workforce credential based on this assessment. The program is similar to the program at WWRC. See DRS Navigator Emily West for more information.
- New Project Search sites will open during the 2010-2011 SY. They are Montgomery Co., Norfolk City, Williamsburg James City County, and one in the Roanoke Valley involving several LEAs. Existing sites will continue (Richmond, Hampton/Newport News, Chesterfield Co. and Henrico-ASD Research @ St. Mary's.

**VATS Roundtable report as adopted from the minutes of the Assistive  
Technology Advisory Council Meeting:  
June 9, 2010  
Adopted by Matthew Deans, VATS Liaison**

The following are some of the many important notes and minutes adopted from the [Town Hall Webpage](#) in which case a full text article can be found should you need more information.

...Ms. Hayfield reported on some of the last quarter accomplishments by VATS which included an Assistive Technology (AT) Fair held at the Virginia Transition Forum in March and AT Training held at WWRC in April. The Virginia Reuse Network has also been active as they proceed to provide durable medical equipment to qualified residents in the Commonwealth. VATS staff from the DRS Central Office and Regional Sites attended the National AT Act Conference held in Arlington, Virginia, and along with the New Well Fund, were responsible for providing the welcoming at the Conference.

Ms. Hayfield explained that the AT Act of 1998 as amended in 2004, which funds VATS, is due to be reauthorized in 2010. The reauthorization of the AT Act took place in 2004 and the allocation of money was provided in formula grants for six years, with a one year extension. The AT Act will be addressed in 2011.

**Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Update:**

Kelly Lum began her presentation by reminding the Council that in October 2009, Rick Sizemore, Director, WWRC, had asked ATAC members to look at and endorse the WWRC Blueprint. The Blueprint runs from October through September and they are beginning to develop a new Blueprint for the next fiscal year. Council members were asked to let WWRC know if they have any recommendations for AT related issues to be addressed by the Center. Ms. Lum reported on activities such as WWRC providing mobile clinics in Southwest Virginia, seminars held to share AT Resources, and a project for a centralized loaner library at WRRC. WWRC has a research grant for persons with neurologic impairments. You may contact Ms. Lum if you know of someone who may be interested in participating as part of the study related to the grant.

Ms. Lum reported that the new DRS AT Specialist (Occupational Therapist) position has been filled in Southwest Virginia and that DRS is recruiting for the new position that is open in the DRS Northern Region

### **Report on AT and Transition**

Erica Lovelace, Education Services Manager, presented a report on behalf of Susan Asselin, Director of VATS Southwest on the special project dealing with issues associated with Assistive Technology and Transition. A final report on this project, along with recommendations, will be presented to the Advisory Council at the September 2010 meeting. Mr. Krollman suggested to the Council that the Fall 2010 newsletter cover the topic of Assistive Technology and Transition.

Ms. Hayfield reminded the Council that John Eisenberg had asked VATS and the ATAC to consider recommending a change in legislation or policy as a result of the study being prepared by the Committee on AT and Transitioning.

### **Report on New Well Fund**

Joey Wallace, Ph.D., Director, New Well Fund provided a historical overview of the New Well Fund during its 15 years in existence. The New Well Fund provides low interest, guaranteed loans for people with disabilities who qualify for AT equipment such as wheelchair accessible vans, vehicle modifications, hearing aids, home modifications, athletic equipment or if they want to start a business at home (telework).

The New Well Fund will provide staff to assist with completing a loan application at no cost to the applicant and, if needed, go to the home of the applicant as well as provide an evaluation.

### **Review of Document from the Virginia Department of Education**

Mary Wilds, attending for John Eisenberg, presented a new planning document produced by the Virginia Department of Education entitled "Infusion of AT for Learning Planning for Effective AT Consideration".

The Board of Education maintains a detailed comprehensive, six-year plan to integrate educational technology into the Standards of Learning and the curricula of the public schools in Virginia. The plan presents a vision for the use of technology in schools and classrooms, and it serves as a blueprint for school divisions by identifying the necessary components of an effective technology program and can be reviewed at the following link:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents\\_memos/2010/123-10.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2010/123-10.shtml).

### **Virginia Reuse Network Update**

Barclay Shepard presented an update on two pilot programs VATS is coordinating: the VR DMEReuse Pilot and the DME Sticker Pilot. Mr. Shepard began the Power Point presentation with a review of VATS' role as the contract administrator of the Virginia Reuse Network (VRN). Mr. Shepard reported that the Virginia Reuse Network is supported by funds from a variety of sources including: the AT Act; the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA); and the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund Board (CNI). Mr. Shepard discussed the structure as well as goals and objectives of the VRN.

Mr. Shepard reviewed the VR DME Pilot Program goal to increase assistive technology (AT) / durable medical equipment (DME) reuse activities within the Department of Rehabilitative Services' (DRS) vocational rehabilitation (VR) program. Mr. Shepard explained that VATS and the FREE Foundation have been participating in DRS field office staff meetings to connect field office staff with the local FREE Foundation reuse chapter / program. Mr. Shepard reviewed the project timeline, preliminary data of VR participants served, and two success stories.

Mr. Shepard reported on the planning and kick-off of the DME Sticker Pilot. Mr. Shepard reported that four DME providers in the Roanoke area agreed to apply "DME equipment stickers" to new rehabilitation equipment issued to Medicaid recipients, to educate Medicaid recipients on the benefits of reuse, and to collect data on equipment tagged using a "DME Provider Report." By doing so, Pilot Program participants anticipate that Medicaid recipients and or family members will use the contact information on the sticker to donate their gently used rehabilitation equipment to the VRN. Mr. Shepard reported that the Pilot is a collaborative effort among the following state agencies, non-profits, and DME Providers: the Department for Medical Assistance Services (DMAS); Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS); the Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (F.R.E.E.); Medi Home Care; Advanced Home Care; Horizon Medical; and Sun Medical. Mr. Shepard reported that the Pilot Program will take place for six months: June – December 2010.

### **FREE Foundation Update**

Sonja Schaible reported on statewide FREE Foundation reuse activities. Ms. Schaible updated Council members on the FREE Foundation's expansion of reuse programs into Richmond and South Hampton Roads areas. Ms. Schaible also reported that the FREE Foundation recently purchased the first of four automated sanitization and processing units for DME. The unit was purchased from the HUBSCRUB company and is capable of cleaning and sanitizing DME such as: wheelchairs; walkers; canes; bedside commodes; transfer benches etc. Ms. Schaible reported that the FREE Foundation participated in the Spring AT Training.

### **Telecommunications Presentation: Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Clayton Bowen and Patricia Banks, Virginia Dept for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, conducted a presentation of video telecommunications equipment and the TAP program.

A report and demo on the i800 Captel and Z-phone. Financial assistance may be available toward the purchase of equipment.

DD/HH will work with VATS Regional Sites to provide phones and information as part of their complement of demo equipment.