

**Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired  
Rehabilitation Council  
397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond, Virginia  
DRAFT Minutes, Quarterly Meeting  
Marcy 3, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Michael Kasey	Frances Daniel	Jay Overbey
Mary Powell	Faye Adams	Doug Powell
Patricia Beattie	Nancy Quisenberry	
Pierre Ames	Hortense Macon	

**Members Absent:**

Christine Cutchins	Dave Thompson	Chancey Fleet
Marianne Moore	Mary Chappell	Fred Schroeder
Sherri Phillips	Robin Metcalf	Celestine Walker

**Staff Present:**

Joe Bowman, Commissioner  
Jim Taylor, Chief Deputy Commissioner  
Bob Burton, Deputy Commissioner for Services  
Joan Carneal, Recorder

**Guests Present:**

Roy Ward

**Call to Order:** Ms. Beattie called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. She welcomed members and guests. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Ms. Beattie called for action on the proposed agenda. Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Sherman from Human Services Transportation Coordination in Virginia was unable to attend the meeting so he would be giving the report and that Mr. Burton's report would be given following the Commissioner's report. It was moved by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Kasey, and passed by unanimous voice vote that the agenda be adopted as amended.

**Action on Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Ms. Beattie called for action on the draft minutes of the December 16, 2006, meeting. It was moved by Ms. Macon,

seconded by Mr. Overbey, and passed by unanimous voice vote that the minutes be adopted as presented.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**Transportation** – Ms. Cutchins submitted this written report:

- Stated that transportation is the key for total independence for people with disabilities, seniors and the non-disabled. People use transportation for work, education, medical needs, church, and social activities. Today's transportation for people with disabilities and seniors are limited. This report will address issues for paratransit and the mainline buses.
- Reported that as the result of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), transportation has been restricted for seniors and people with disabilities. The restriction includes an eligibility requirement which states a consumer's destination must be within three-fourths mile of a mainline bus. There are time restrictions and the fares are more than a mainline bus. These restrictions were put in place because of limited resources. Below is a list of what is beyond ADA/Wish list means for people with disabilities:
  - No restrictions on destinations
  - Services on weekends
  - No time restrictions
  - Provide transportation for areas that have none
  - A directory of alternative forms of transportation
  - Good customer service
- Stated that these questions need to be asked for new programs before they are put in place.
  - Where will the funding coming from?
  - When will the program start?
  - How long will the program last?
  - What will happen to the program when the funding ends?
- Reported that the main goals for transportation that everyone agrees on are providing transportation in areas that have none, accessible, affordable, no restriction on time and destination, other forms of alternative transportation and good customer service.
- Stated that there are many good Web sites pertaining to transportation but one good site to begin with would be [unitedweride.gov](http://unitedweride.gov).

**Transition:** Ms. Moore submitted this written report:

- Reported that DOE has submitted the Annual Progress Report and State Performance Plan.
  - Stated that the secondary indicators in this report are as follows:
    - #1 - Graduation rates
    - #2 - Dropout rates
    - #13 - Transition Planning(IEP/monitoring issues)
    - #14 - Post School Outcomes.
  - Stated that the entire report can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/secs/annual-performance-plan05-06.pdf>
- Reported that the entire report covers areas such as testing, Adequate Yearly Progress, preschool transition, disproportionality, timelines, and dispute resolution. This year not all indicators have data associated with them because some are new and only have baseline or the data is being collected.
- Reported that the definition and calculation methodology for graduation rate is changing and it will be a bit difficult to draw conclusions. In 2005-2006, graduation rate for all students was 85.2% and for youths with disabilities it was 48.6%. Using the NCLB calculation (the one that will be used for the 2006-2007 graduation rate report), the 2005-2006 graduation rate for all students is 79% and for youth with disabilities it is 42%.
- Reported that the dropout rate for all students in 2005-2006 was 1.9% and for students with disabilities it was 2.2%.
- Reported that Indicator 13 asks for the percent of youth age 16 and up with IEPs that include coordinated, measurable annual goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals. In Virginia 22 divisions were involved in the file review. Divisions from each superintendent's region were involved in the review. Nine hundred and twenty-eight files were reviewed and 713 (76.83%) met the indicator.
- Reported that Indicator 14 is being collected between April and August using a web based survey that asks post high school questions about education, training, and employment.

**Comments from the Commissioner:** Mr. Bowman gave the following report:

- Thanked members for taking time out of their Saturday to attend the meeting.
- Announced that the General Assembly had approved the seven additional rehabilitation teaching positions for the agency.
- Mr. Powell inquired about a pedestrian safety bill submitted last year where a task force was appointed, but he had not heard anything about it this year. Mr. Bowman stated he would research it and get back with him with a report. Ms. Beattie suggested that Mr. Powell contact Ms. Cutchins about it as she is

chairperson for the transportation subcommittee and may have information regarding that bill and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

- Stated that there has been no action regarding the reauthorization of the Rehab Act.
- Discussed the GAO study regarding the Randolph Sheppard program and the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act and encouraged members to contact their Congressmen with their concerns. Reported that he would forward the full report to members via email next week.
- Stated that the Commonwealth has made an effort to provide all government and state information available to all citizens who are interested by accessing their Web site at [www.vaperforms.com](http://www.vaperforms.com) and browse agencies measures. Reported that the two key objectives for DBVI are: 1) to promote competitive job placements with measures of working to insure that 70% of VR consumers can achieve their employment goals and work satisfactorily for at least 90 days upon completion of their programs; and 2) to increase the independence of Virginia's seniors who are blind and vision impaired with measures of working to insure that 85% of consumers of Older Blind Grant training services report an increase in independence upon completion of their programs. Stated that this objective was what influenced the approval for the additional seven rehabilitation teachers passed by General Assembly. Reviewed the agency's management scorecard in the areas of Human Resources Management, Government Procurement, Financial Management, Technology, Performance Management, and Resource Stewardship.

**Regional Office Update:** Mr. Burton gave the following report:

- Reported the following current openings: a VR counselor position in Fairfax (this has been open since October of 2006); a VR counselor position in Norfolk (the current counselor is transferring to DRS); a RT position in Staunton (the current teacher has retired after 37 years of service); and an O&M instructor position in both Roanoke and Bristol (we will be making an offer to an individual and it will be up to her to decide which office she would like to work).
- Reported that we have a new VR counselor in Staunton who comes to us from DRS.
- Reported that the Norfolk and Roanoke offices will be relocating within the year.
- Announced that the agency will be having a statewide staff meeting at the Azalea Complex beginning at 1:00 p.m. on April 17 and adjourning at noon on April 20. Stated that staff will have a joint meeting on April 17 and that on

April 18 it will be broken out into separate programs. Invited members to attend any portion of the meeting and announced that on April 17 the guest speaker is an ophthalmologist, Dr. Cook, who is a professor at MCV who will be speaking on macular degeneration.

**Human Services Transportation Coordination in Virginia** – Mr. Taylor gave the following report for Mr. Sherman with Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation:

- Stated that we need a Coordinated Human Service Mobility (CHSM) plan because:
  - Regional CHSM plans are being developed in accordance with SAFETEA-LU, the Federal legislation that funds public transportation services and projects. Localities in Virginia must develop regional CHSM plans that take into consideration the needs of elderly, low-income and disabled populations. As the lead agency and designated recipient of Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute -- JARC), and Section 5317 (New Freedom) Programs, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will be assisting non-urbanized areas in developing regional plans.
- Reported that the purpose of the CHSM is to:
  - The plan provisions are designed to ensure the coordination of human service transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs (Section 5310, JARC, and the New Freedom Program). Coordination will enhance human service transportation access, minimize the duplication of services, and facilitate the most appropriate, cost-effective transportation possible with available resources.
- Reported that the plan will include:
  - The plan provisions are designed to ensure the coordination of human service transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs (Section 5310, JARC, and the New Freedom Program). Coordination will enhance human service transportation access, minimize the duplication of services, and facilitate the most appropriate, cost-effective transportation possible with available resources.
- Explained why it is important to participate in the development and implementation of the regional CHSM plan.
  - Participation is required in order to be eligible for future federal funding under Section 5310, JARC, and the New Freedom Program.
- Reported that the regional CHSM plan development process will kick off with regional workshops throughout Virginia. These workshops will offer you the

opportunity to comment on local human service transportation needs and resources. Stated that he will forward the dates of the workshop to members next week via email.

**VR Program Update:** Mr. Taylor gave the following report in Ms. Payne's absence:

**Comments and Response from Fall 2006 Public Meeting**

- Reported that they have been completed and was sent to members prior to the meeting and has been posted on the agency's Web site.
- Requested members to review the comments and contact him or Ms. Payne with suggestions/ideas.

**Update on Comprehensive Needs Assessment:**

- Stated the MSU should have a draft report ready by the end of March and that he will forward that report to members when it is received.
- Reported that a survey was sent to consumers and agency staff which were mailed directly to MSU for confidentiality purposes.

**Update on VR Outcomes for FY 2007:**

- Reported that there was a total of 31 closures through the end of February; however, we expect to have approximately 186 by the end of the fiscal year.
- Reported that at the time of application for those 31 successful closures, the average wage earnings were \$163 per week and at the time of closure it was \$393 per week.

**VR Staff Training:** Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Burton had covered this item earlier in his report. He reported that VRCBVI services would be covered during the April 18 session for the VR counselors as well as information regarding client grievances.

**FY 2008 State Plan:**

- Reported that the agency must have an approved State plan in order to receive federal funding, and it is due to RSA by July 1.
- Reported that this year there will be several updates per instructions of the pre-print; however, a lot of those will be in changing attachment numbers.
- Stated that the following attachments are required:
  - Summary of Input and Recommendations from the Rehab Council
  - Comprehensive System Personnel Development

- Identifies the Goals and Priorities in Carrying out the VR and SE Programs
- Innovations and Expansions which includes a Rehab Council section where we project expenses for Council activities
- Ms. Beattie asked that members be involved in the development of the State plan by volunteering to review specific attachments, make recommendations/input to staff, and submit a report at the June meeting as to whether staff accepted recommendations/input.

The following individuals volunteered:

- Ms. Moore is working on the transition portion of the State plan and Ms. Powell volunteered to work with her.
- Ms. Cutchins is working on transportation issues.
- Mr. Powell volunteered to review the Innovation and Expansion attachment.
- Ms. Beattie volunteered to review the Goals and Priorities and the input and recommendations from the Rehab Council attachments.
- Ms. Macon volunteered for the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development attachment.

Members will be sent copies of the attachments for their review as requested above.

- Stated that a draft copy will be forwarded to members prior to the June meeting for their review.

**Comments from the Public:** None

**Participation in DRS SRC Meeting:** Mr. Ward gave the following report:

- Reported that he and Mr. Avery, who are on the DRS SRC, were proposing the possibility of having a representative from DBVI Rehab Council attend the DRS SRC meetings and visa versa in order to collaborate information, especially in legislation issues.
- A motion was made by Mr. Kasey that the item be tabled until the next meeting, which will allow time for Ms. Beattie to check to see what type of representation we already have as Ms. Moore attends the DRS SRC and Ms. Beattie attends the VATS Advisory Committee before voting. It was moved, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to table this item until the next meeting.

**NCSAB Conference Call:** Ms. Beattie gave the following report:

- Reported that she attended the SRC session in San Francisco and it was reported at that session that one thing they depended on the most from SRCs was assistance with the legislation activity. Requested that someone on the Council volunteer to track federal and/or state legislation for the Council; hearing none, she stated she would follow legislation for the Council
- Stated that she participated in the CSAVR meeting, and as a result became a member of the legislative committee of CSAVR.

**Lunch:** Members took a 15-minute break at 12:15 p.m. for lunch. Members informally discussed how they saw their role on the Council. Mr. Ames stated that members could access important information regarding transition, disability, laws and regulations, foster care, and juvenile justice from his agency's Web site at [www.peatc.org](http://www.peatc.org). Reported that his agency's mission was to provide support education, and training to families, schools and other professionals committed to helping children with disabilities. In answer to Mr. Kasey's question, Mr. Ames stated that PEATC does conduct presentations, upon request. Upon Mr. Powell's request, Mr. Bowman stated that he would send out the schedule for meetings regarding the Community Based Emergency Response Seminar: Preparing for All Abilities.

**Report on March 2 New Council Member Orientation Training:**

- Reported that orientation training had taken place for new Council members on Friday, March 2 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and March 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Stated that on March 2 they had received comments from Mr. Bowman, an overview from Mr. Taylor on the VR program, an overview of the Richmond regional office and other DBVI programs from Mr. Burton, a tour of the Rehabilitation Center by Ms. Lindsey, an overview of the Randolph-Sheppard program from Mr. Kennedy, enjoyed lunch at a local vending facility, an overview of the Industries including a tour of the Richmond plant from Mr. Bohrer, and returned to the Administrative Building for an overview and discussion of the day's activities from Ms. Beattie and Mr. Taylor. On March 3 prior to the regular scheduled meeting the role and responsibilities of the Council were discussed by Ms. Beattie and Mr. Taylor.
- Mr. Powell, Mr. Kasey and Ms. Beattie attended the entire meeting and Ms. Powell joined them at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday.

**Spring CSAVR Conference:** Ms. Beattie stated that the conference would be held in Bethesda, Maryland from April 22 – 25. Stated that she would like to see other



members of the Council attend these conferences. Reported that early registration cut-off was March 30 and the agency would pay for registration and travel expenses. Stated that interested members should notify Mr. Taylor before that date. Stated that the agenda would be sent out next week.

**Other Business:** Mr. Taylor announced that Ms. Walker from Lynchburg had been appointed as the SILC representative for the Council. Stated that she was unable to attend this meeting due to her husband's illness.

**Next Meeting:** The next Rehabilitation Council meeting is scheduled to be held at DBVI Headquarters Conference Room I/II, 397 Azalea Avenue, on Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to come before the Council, it was seconded, moved, and passed by unanimous voice vote that the meeting be adjourned at 1:45 p.m.