Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Allison Coles-Johnson Shay Ruff Lindsay Pearse Conner Cummings Cesar Dulanto Erika Rogers Cynthia Pettus Kyle Jones **Non-EC Board Members:** Thomas Leach	Kristie Bowie-Young	Anita Ayres Tara Bethea Christine Germeyer Nia Harrison Jen Krajewski Aieshia Poole Penni Sweetenburg-Lee Jason Withers John Eisenberg Danielle Logan

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

Introduction of the New Executive Director

The Chair called on Mr. John Eisenberg, new VBPD Executive Director, to introduce himself.

Review of Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

The Chair greeted and welcomed Board members and staff. The Committee members and staff introduced themselves. The Chair stated that four requests for virtual participation due to personal circumstances were made. The EC Committee must approve Board members' electronic participation. Ms. Coles-Johnson asked if there were any objections to approving electronic participation for four Board members: Ms. Melinda Hanko, Ms. Amber Lee, Ms. Rachel Loria, and Mr. Cesar Dulanto. Hearing no objections, Ms. Coles-Johnson called for a vote, and the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Approval of June 3, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked committee members if they had had a chance to review the minutes. The Chair asked if there were any edits or changes to the June 3, 2026, meeting minutes. Hearing none, Ms. Coles-Johnson called for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the June 3, 2026, meeting minutes. Ms. Erika Rogers made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE**, and Mr. Kyle Jones seconded. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Board Member Attendance

Mr. Jason Withers, Director of Administration, noted the attendance tracking attachment EC 3-1. Mr. Withers noted that there are no concerns with the Board members' attendance.

Mr. Jones stated that he was present for both days during the 2-day Board Retreat meeting in September 2025. Mr. Withers advised he would ensure the attendance tracking chart is updated appropriately.

Executive Director's Update and Questions

Ms. Jennifer Krajewski, Deputy Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, briefly summarized key activities that took place in the last quarter. Ms. Krajewski referenced EC 4-1 and reported on special initiatives and workgroup participation, policy work, agency administration and Board operations, communications, grants and contracts, and training and alumni development programs. Mr. Eisenberg remarked about all the work Board staff have been engaged in over the last several months.

Agency Fiscal Report

Mr. Withers summarized the agency's fiscal report and provided the balances. He stated that the balance reflects where we should be this time of year. Mr. Withers stated that the fiscal year 2026 budget totaled $ 2,054,154 and noted that the agency has spent $189,209 leaving $1,864,945. Mr. Withers noted that the agency is on track to spend the remaining funds by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Withers briefly discussed the 2025 and 2026 federal awards and noted that the agency is on track to spend down the state and federal award balances.

SFY 2027 Board Operational Budget

Mr. Jason Withers presented the updated 2027 operational budget, highlighting a 1.5% increase in funds appropriated by the General Assembly. He provided a detailed breakdown of budget categories and programmatic changes. Mr. Withers stated that the total anticipated revenue for FY27 is $3,760,298, supported by an anticipated FFY 2027 grant award of $1,734,502 and the State general fund appropriation of $285,410.

Federal Budget/Policy Updates

Ms. Krajewski informed committee members that the Board continues to receive federal funding for now. Ms. Krajewski presented some highlights from the Homestead campaign. Ms. Krajewski briefly discussed that the Department of Labor recently rescinded some regulations that require a 7% disability utilization goal for federal contractors with disabilities. Ms. Krajewski also discussed the work requirements coming from HR1 in which a lawsuit has been filed by 25 states including Virginia and the District of Columbia, stating that the regulation that has been put in place goes beyond what was put in place by Congress.

Committee Agendas

Committee Chairs Ms. Cynthia Pettus with AOT, Mr. Kyle Jones with PAC, and Mr. Jason Withers, on behalf of the IC Chair, Ms. Kristie Bowie-Young, provided a brief overview of committee meeting agendas.

Other Business & Adjournment

The Chair asked committee members if there was any other Board business to discuss. Hearing none, Ms. Coles-Johnson called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas Leach made the **MOTION** to adjourn, Ms. Lindsay Pearse seconded. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Board Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Allison Coles-Johnson Marcus Allen Kristie Bowie-Young Tim Capoldo James Hall Jeff Katz Thomas Leach Justin Sheets (Rick Mitchell) Melainie Rice Matthew Shapiro Kristie Bowie-Young Dana Taormina Richard Kriner Conner Cummings Cathy Edwards Amanda Forry-Fino Cynthia Pettus Shay Ruff Kate Olson Cynthia Reed (Samantha Hollins) Kyle Jones Deanna Parker Parthy Dinora Lindsay Pearse Erika Rogers Cesar Dulanto (virtual) Melinda Hanko (virtual) Rachel Loria (virtual) Amber Lee (virtual) Nicholas "Mick" Sladic Katie Morris – (Ann Bevan)	Amaan Karim Eric Raff Ginny Conroy	Anita Ayres Tara Bethea Christine Germeyer Nia Harrison Jennifer Krajewski Danielle Logan Linh Nguyen Aieshia Poole Penni Sweetenburg-Lee Jason Withers John Eisenberg Carnell Lewis

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities met at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel for the September 9, 2026, Quarterly Board meeting.

The Chair, Ms. Allison Coles-Johnson, called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m. She greeted and welcomed Board members and staff.

The Chair informed Board members that the Executive Committee approved virtual participation for four Board members, Ms. Melinda Hanko, Ms. Amber Lee, Ms. Rachel Loria, and Mr. Cesar Dulanto, due to personal circumstances. Ms. Coles-Johnson welcomed the Board members who participated via Zoom.

The Chair reviewed the housekeeping notes.

Adoption of Amended Board Agenda

The Chair explained that due to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources needing to change start time of his presentation, staff to the Board shifted the order of the agenda and presentations to accommodate the Secretary's schedule. The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adopt the amended agenda. Ms. Kate Olson made a **MOTION** to adopt the amended agenda, and Ms. Amanda Forry-Fino seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Introductions

The Chair asked Board members and staff to introduce themselves. She asked Board members to include their names, where they live, what slot they fill, and an interesting fact about themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked whether there were any changes to the June 3, 2026, Board Meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a **MOTION** to **Approve** the minutes. Mr. Matthew Shapiro made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes, and Ms. Parthy Dinora seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to provide public comment. Hearing none, The Chair called on Ms. Lindsay Pearse, Secretary to the Board, to read public comment that was received via email, requesting for a review of parent caregiver policies affecting Families of Children with Complex Medical Needs. Ms. Pearse read the public comment aloud during the full Board meeting.

Presentation from DBHDS

Ms. Deanna Parker, Director of Community Network Supports at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, provided DBHDS agency updates to the Board. Following the presentation, several Board members asked questions, which were answered by Ms. Parker.

Presentation from DMAS

Ms. Katie Morris, Quality & Service Integrity Manger, and Mr. Jason Perkins, Program Manager, Division of High Needs Supports at the Department for Medical Assistance Services, provided a presentation to the Board on Medicaid Updates. Following the presentation, several Board members asked questions, which were answered by Ms. Morris and Mr. Perkins.

Remarks from the Secretary of HHR

The Honorable Marvin Figueroa, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, provided remarks to the Board, discussing how the VBPD has worked across systems and is supported by HHR. Mr. Figueroa also discussed the importance of strengthening the ties between VBPD and the HHR Secretariat. Following the presentation, Board members asked questions pertaining to the presentation, which were addressed by Mr. Figueroa.

Lunch Break

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Standing Committee Reports

Report of the Investment Committee: Ms. Kristie Bowie-Young, Chair of the Investment Committee (IC), presented the committee's report.

Ms. Bowie-Young referred to the Supplemental Packet attachment. She discussed the 6-month grant renewal application from The Arc of Virginia and reviewed the grantee's reported accomplishments and challenges experienced during the first year of the grant project. Ms. Bowie-Young reviewed the Year-2 continuation period and stated that the grantee would expend approximately $30,738 during the 6 months remaining on the grant project.

Following the review of the continuation proposal, the Chair asked if there was any further discussion; hearing none, she asked for a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** The Arc of Virginia's proposal. Ms. Cyntia Pettus made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the proposal and Ms. Kate Olson recused herself. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Report of the Advocacy, Outreach, and Training Committee: Ms. Cynthia Pettus, Chair of the Advocacy, Outreach, and Training (AOT) Committee, presented the Committee's report.

Ms. Greene reported that Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee provided an update on the Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program, the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), and the Board's statewide educational events.

Ms. Greene stated that Ms. Anita Ayres, Communications Director, provided an update on the Board's communications efforts.

Ms. Greene reported that Ms. Rachel Loria, Senior Disability Rights Advocate, provided a presentation about the DisAbility Law Center of Virginia to the committee members.

Ms. Greene concluded her report by reviewing several upcoming training, outreach, and advocacy activities planned for the coming year.

See AOT meeting minutes for additional details.

Report of the Policy Advisory Committee: Mr. Kyle Jones, Chair of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), presented the Committee's report.

Mr. Jones reported that Ms. Jennifer Krajewski provided an overview of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier that day. The Committee also reviewed and approved its June 3, 2026, meeting minutes.

Mr. Jones stated that Ms. Krajewski provided updates on the Board's 2026-2027 assessments and liaison activities. In addition, the Committee discussed potential topics for future meetings and Board activities.

Ms. Nia Harrison, Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, provided an update on dental and related healthcare policy activities to the committee.

Ms. Linh Nguyen, Manager of Special Projects & Priority Initiatives, provided the committee members with an update on the Board's Information Access project activities.

See PAC meeting minutes for additional details.

The Chair thanked Ms. Bowie-Young, Ms. Pettus, and Mr. Jones for their reports and for their leadership and service to the Board and its committees.

The Chair then invited Board members to ask questions regarding the Executive Committee meeting held earlier that morning. Hearing none, the Board proceeded to the next agenda item.

Other Business & Adjourn

The Chair asked if there was any other Board business to discuss. Hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

AOT Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Shay Ruff	Alex Campbell	Christine Germeyer
Kate Olson	Amanda Forry-Fino	Dr. Penni Sweetenberg-Lee
Cathy Edwards	Melinda Hanko	Anita Ayres
Allison Coles-Johnson	Jen Kelly	Danielle Logan
Conner Cummings		
Cynthia Pettus		
Cesar Dulanto III (V)	**Guests**	
Rachel Loria (V)	Sharon Cummings	(V) - Virtual Attendance

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

The Advocacy, Outreach and Training Committee met at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Richmond, on September 9, 2026. Ms. Cynthia Pettus, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m. ET. A quorum was met. The Chair asked for introductions from the attendees.

Executive Committee Update

Ms. Pettus gave a summary of the Executive Committee meeting, including that VBPD's new Executive Director John Eisenberg was in attendance. She also shared that the Board reviewed the budget for the new fiscal year; updates from the Department of Labor, including the rescission of employee disability status data collection and the 7% hiring quota for workers with disabilities; and that 25 states, including Virginia, have challenged an interim final rule regarding Medicaid work requirements under H.R. 1.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pettus called for the approval of the June 2026 meeting minutes. Ms. Cathy Edwards made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the June 2026 AOT meeting minutes, and Mr. Conner Cummings seconded. The June 2026 meeting minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

Training & Alumni Development Programs Update

Dr. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee began her presentation by acknowledging Ms. Christine Germeyer and Ms. Kellie Vanella for their staff support. She first gave an update on Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), which will take place July 2027. Recruitment for YLA will begin November 2026 and close April 2027. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee explained that because VBPD's contract with Virginia State University has come to close, she and her team will begin procurement for their next campus host.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee then shared that Ms. Germeyer and Ms. Vanella are in contact with Partnerships in Policymaking (PIP) and YLA alumni respectively every week to include them in alumni spotlights. This effort has allowed them to reconnect with and re-engage alumni.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee also gave an update on PIP. She shared that Ms. Germeyer designed the program booklet with pictures featuring past alumni. The 2027 PIP kick-off will take place in person on September 11 and 12 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel at Richmond Airport. Both the previous and current VBPD Executive Directors, Ms. Teri Morgan and Mr. John Eisenberg, will be in attendance. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee also reviewed important PIP dates, including Capitol Day on November 14, 2026, the Legislative Meeting Project presentations on March 5 and 6, 2027, and graduation on April 10, 2027. She encouraged AOT Committee members to at least attend the PIP graduation ceremony, which will take place at the Delta Hotel in Downtown Richmond.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee then shared updates on the seven upcoming statewide continuing education workshop sessions. She announced that she is currently awaiting final confirmation from Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan for a presentation on federal Medicaid and Medicare updates on September 25. The other workshop sessions are scheduled for October 23, November 20, December 11, February 19, March 19, and April 23.

Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee also reminded committee members that Train the Trainer will take place Saturday, September 26, 2026. Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee shared that she herself conducts this training for self-advocates, with alumni serving as co-facilitators.

Finally, Dr. Sweetenburg-Lee acknowledged her staff's recent accomplishments, including Ms. Vanella's completion of the VBPD and HHR-sponsored Writing in Clear/Plain Language training and Ms. Germeyer's graduation from the Commonwealth Mentorship Program.

Communications Activity Report

Ms. Anita Ayres began her report by commending the training team on their accomplishments, and by congratulating Ms. Danielle Logan, Communications Assistant, on her own completion of the Writing in Clear/Plain Language training. Ms. Ayres added that, because she had completed this training the previous year, she and Ms. Logan have been collaborating on a redesign of the annual assessment infographics. She announced that the 2026 Assessments of the Disability Services System infographics will now be targeted towards specific audiences: lawmakers and advocates. There will be two "fact sheets" per assessment that will be released via social media, the VBPD website, and email once complete.

Ms. Ayres also shared that the communications team has increased their social media engagement. As an example, she shared that one post featuring the signing of bill HB 37 with Governor Abigail Spanberger received over 600 reactions, and VBPD gained more than 100 new followers on Meta platforms in a single day. She added that there was a similar response to a post with Governor Spanberger commemorating Conner's Law. Due to the success of policy-related posts (including Bill of the Week posts released during General Assembly), Ms. Logan launched a "From Bill to Law" social media series that explains in plain language what recently passed laws mean for the disability community.

Ms. Ayres also added that the communications team provided other marketing support this past quarter, including writing press releases and coordinating announcements across marketing channels regarding the Pre-Employment Transition Services grant award, the appointment of Executive Director John Eisenberg, and the 2026 Assessments of the Disability Services System booklet, for which they also provided copyediting, design and printing support.

Finally, Ms. Ayres shared that the communications team is currently working with Ms. Nia Harrison on materials for the release of the new State Plan. She also shared an updated timeline for the self-advocacy videos the team will complete under the new State Plan, adding that she hopes to release the first video in the series October 2027.

DisAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) Presentation

Ms. Pettus invited Board member and Senior Disability Rights Advocate at dLCV, Ms. Rachel Loria, to give a committee-requested presentation on the dLCV and its Client Assistance Program (CAP).

Ms. Loria began her presentation with an overview of dLCV's funding streams and two primary goals, which are to hold entities that serve people with disabilities accountable, and to ensure that people with disabilities have access to programs and services.

In alignment with these goals, Ms. Loria explained that dLCV strives to ensure that people are not secluded or restrained in state hospitals and that their human rights are respected; that people in group homes are not abused and have access to communication such as interpreters; that voting is accessible; and that they also assist with transition services such as vocational rehabilitation and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

Ms. Loria also reviewed what dLCV does not assist with, including financial assistance, drafting of wills, representation in criminal proceedings, social security eligibility and applications, workers comp. family law matters, product liability cases, bankruptcy matters, consumer protection issues, tax issues, and pension issues.

Ms. Loria then presented on dlCV's Client Assistance Program, which helps people seek information and apply for services related to vocational rehabilitation services and Pre-ETS managed by Centers for Independent Living, the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

Ms. Loria closed her presentation by sharing how people can get in touch with dLCV via phone call or visiting the website, and that there are brochures on the website available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Vietnamese.

Ms Pettus asked if dLCV advocates for reasonable accommodations in the workplace, and Ms. Loria informed her that while dLCV does not, they do refer people to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the Job Accommodation Network.

Ms. Sharon Cummings shared that she and Mr. Cummings plan to promote dLCV's offer to provide free representation related to DD Medicaid waiver hours being cut. Ms. Loria agreed that dLCV is fortunate to have the capacity for this offer.

Dr. Sweetenberg-Lee asked what the key positions and organizational structure of dLCV is. Ms. Loria responded that dLCV has administrative assistants; disability rights advocates and senior advocates; attorneys; managerial staff for each of the four separate units; and management over each director, with around 30 employees total. Dr. Sweetenberg-Lee thanked her and added that dLCV will be represented at the PIP kickoff on Friday, September 11.

Ms. Loria also took the opportunity to highlight dLCV's Coming of Age Manual. The 50-page manual provides an overview of changes that happen when a person with disabilities turns 18 and is available in multiple languages. Ms. Loria offered to bring a few physical copies to the next Board meeting, although it is also available on the dLCV website.

Other Business & Future Meeting Topics

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The Chair called for a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Shay Ruff made the **MOTION** to adjourn, and Ms. Kate Olson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. ET carried unanimously.

IC Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Thomas Leach James Hall Richard Kriner Tim Capoldo Kristie-Bowie-Young Justin Sheets (Rick Mitchell) Matthew Shapiro Jeff Katz Melanie Rice Marcus Allen Dana Taormina	Amaan Karim Mick Sladic (moved to PAC Committee)	Nia Harrison Aieshia Poole

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

A meeting of the Investment Committee was held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, in Richmond, Virginia, on September 9, 2026. Investment Committee Chair, Ms. Kristie Bowie-Young, called the meeting to order at 12:51pm.

Selection of Committee Vice Chair

The committee selected Thomas Leach as the committee vice chair. Dr. Aieshia Poole, Grants & Contracts Administrator, explained the duties of the vice chair, such as stepping in during the absence of the chair to facilitate the committee meeting and reporting to the full Board if needed.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bowie-Young asked if there were any questions/concerns with the June 2026 meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mr. James Hall made a **MOTION** to approve the June 2026 meeting minutes, and Mr. Marcus Allen **SECONDED**. The **MOTION** was carried unanimously.

Approval of Continuation Proposal

Dr. Poole discussed the continuation project renewal request received from the Arc of VA with committee members, in connection with the self-advocacy project titled "From Foundation to Future: Advancing Self-Advocacy through Local Advisors." Dr. Poole explained that the continuation project renewal request is for 6 months from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. The request was made to complete project activities for year 2, as stated in their original proposal. Dr. Poole reviewed and discussed the request documentation with the committee members, referencing the supplemental packet. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Matt Shapiro made a **MOTION** to recommend that the full Board approve the continuation project renewal request received from the Arc of VA, in connection with the self-advocacy project. Mr. Jeff Katz **SECONDED.** The **MOTION** was carried.

Grants and Contracts Expenditure Monitoring

Dr. Poole provided updates on recent expenditures regarding three active grant projects, referencing attachment IC 3-1: Expanding Capacity for Customized Employment Services to Virginians with Disabilities grant with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; From Foundation to Future: Advancing Self-Advocacy through Local Advisors grant with The Arc of Virginia; and Enhancing Inclusive Dental Care in Virginia: Statewide Training and Mobile Demonstration of Sensory-Adapted Dental Environments (SADE) grant with Virginia Commonwealth University.

Committee Input on Grantee Risk Assessment for Grantee Performance

Dr. Poole and Ms. Nia Harrison, Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, discussed with committee members the future potential of implementing a grantee risk assessment for grantee performance. Ms. Harrison and Dr. Poole explained that Board staff do not have a formal, standardized mechanism for sharing information with the Grant Review Team about the past performance of grant applicants who previously received funding from the Board. To fill that gap, VBPD staff are considering developing a grantee performance risk assessment form like some other state Developmental Disabilities Councils. The committee discussed the following categories and concepts for the risk assessment:

1. Change the language from risk assessment to technical assistance support;
2. Conduct 6-month check-ins with grantees, rather than conducting an assessment at the end of the grant period;
3. Measure categories such as: financial management, program coordination, compliance, organizational capacity, and performance delivery;
4. Scoring matrix: Does meet, inconsistently meets, and does not meet;
5. Provide language referencing the 6-month check ins, scoring, and technical in the grantee manual as a condition of proposal award

Following discussion, Dr. Poole and Nia Harrison indicated they would work on a draft to present at the December Board meeting for further input.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:17 pm.

PAC Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

Meeting Attendance

Board Attendees	Board Members Absent	Staff Attendees
Parthy Dinora Kyle Jones Amber Lee Katie Morris (designee for Ann Bevan) Deanna Parker Lindsay Pearse CiCi Reed (designee) for Samantha Hollins) Erika Rogers Mick Sladic	Ginny Conroy Eric Raff Mary Vought	John Eisenberg Nia Harrison Jennifer Krajewski Linh Thi Nguyen

Call to Order & Introductions

A meeting of Policy Advisory Committee was held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. The Chair, Mr. Kyle Jones, called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m. Ms. Krajewski invited members to introduce themselves.

Approval of June 3, 2026, Minutes

Ms. Parthy Dinora made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Mick Sladic **SECONDED**. The motion was passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Update

Ms. Jennifer Krajewski gave the following report from the Executive Committee meeting: Ms. Nia Harrison presented to dental hygienists and dental groups. The 2026 policy assessments on 1) Barriers to Navigating the Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver Waitlist and 2) Support for Family Caregivers of Adults with DD were published and mailed to legislators. The communications team has increased the Board's social media activity, including a new "Bill to Law" series on Virginia laws that came into effect on July 1, spotlights on training program alumni, and an introduction of the Board's new Executive Director John Eisenberg. Ms. Krajewski also informed members that the Board continues to receive federal funding for now.

Update on Assessments

Ms. Krajewski reported that she will begin work on the 2027 assessments soon. The 2027 assessments will be updates on the 2020 Residential Services and Community Housing Services assessment and the 2020 Day and Employment Services assessment.

Update on Dental and Healthcare Policy Activities

Ms. Nia Harrison presented on her work in the Dental Information Exchange workgroup, legislative advocacy for dental sedation and anesthesia access, Advisory Council on Health Disparities and Health Equity and more.

The Board created the Dental Information Exchange workgroup in 2023 to support the Board's 2023 assessment on Accessibility of Dental Care. The workgroup has about 90 members, including people with disabilities, family members, disability organizations, state agencies, dental providers, dental providers and more. Few members are providers that provide sedated dentistry. Policy committee members discussed providers' lack of understanding of which patients need sedation and which patients don't need it. Ms. Deana Parker mentioned that Va-LEND provides training on this.

Biweekly, Ms. Harrison educates Delegate Sullivan on dental sedation and anesthesia access. The Delegate's Chief of Staff is supportive of the Board's recommendations and has asked other disability organizations to support the recommendations as well. Committee members expressed interest in joining these meetings and inviting the Autism Advisory Committee or Autism Society of Central Virginia.

Ms. Harrison shared that the new Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Dr. Webb has asked the Advisory Council on Health Disparities and Health Equity members to make recommendations to advance health equity across Virginia. To write this Health Equity Report, Nia will prioritize making recommendations on 1) Data and Measurement and 2) Health Care Access and Quality. She hopes VDH will adopt the Board's recommendation to collect disability data.

Ms. Harrison continues to participate in other workgroups such as the Medicaid Advisory Committee; Future of Public Oral Health and Linking Outreach, Trust, Understanding, and Safety for People with Disabilities (LOTUS) Advisory Board. Ms. Harrison also continues to advocate for recommendations from the 2021 assessment on Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs).

Update on Information Access Activities

Ms. Linh Thi Nguyen presented on the training series "Writing in Clear/Plain Language & Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Who Have Extreme Low Literacy (ELL)" and the Community of Practice (CoP) for Information Access.

24 staff from Health and Human Resources state agencies and community services boards participated in the 2026 training. In a post-training survey, training participants said the training increased their confidence and their feelings of preparedness in creating materials in clear/plain language and materials for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and extreme low literacy.

The Community of Practice (CoP) for Information Access members are people who completed the training series. The CoP has held four meetings so far, including a meeting in which members learned how to use the artificial intelligence (AI) program Microsoft Copilot to create materials in clear/plain language.

Update on Liaison Activities

Ms. Linh Thi Nguyen presented on the training series “Writing in Clear/Plain Language & Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Who Have Extreme Low Literacy (ELL)” and the Community of Practice (CoP) for Information Access.

24 staff from Health and Human Resources state agencies and community services boards participated in the 2026 training. In a post-training survey, training participants said the training increased their confidence and their feelings of preparedness in creating materials in clear/plain language and materials for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and extreme low literacy.

The Community of Practice (CoP) for Information Access members are people who completed the training series. The CoP has held four meetings so far, including a meeting in which members learned how to use the artificial intelligence (AI) program Microsoft Copilot to create materials in clear/plain language.

Other Business/Discussion

Mr. Jones invited members to discuss other business.

Mr. John Eisenberg requested an update on the public comment for Vanguard Landing. Ms. Katie Morris shared that the Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Service (DBHDS) and the Department for Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) inspect settings such as nursing facilities and ICF/IIDs. DBHDS and DMAS report their inspections to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS makes the final determination on whether settings are following the HCBS rule. Mr. Eisenberg asked members whether they would be open to future “emergency” calls regarding possible public comments related to the Vanguard Landing.

Adjourn

Ms. Erika Rogers made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mick Sladic **SECONDED**. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Jones adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m.