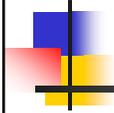


# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

## Virginia's DD Planning Council



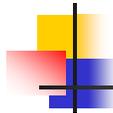
Presentation to Virginia Disability Commission

October 22, 2009

Teri Barker-Morgan, Program Manager

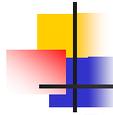
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## Presentation Outline



- Brief overview of DD Council Role
- Description of *Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia, 2008*
- Key Findings and Recommendations for 4 areas: **Community Living, Housing, Employment, & Transportation**

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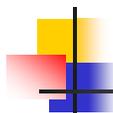


## What is a DD Council?

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- Authorized & funded by the federal **Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act** (DD Act, P.L. 106-402, 2000).
- Every state and territory has one.
- One third of each state/territory's **DD Network**.

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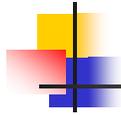
## DD Act

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Core precept:

“disability is a natural part of the human experience that in now way diminishes a person’s right to fully participate in all aspects of American life”

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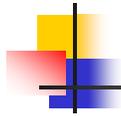


## Role of DD Councils

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- Advocacy and Training
- Capacity Building
- Systems Change

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## DD Council Goals

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DD Councils are charged with facilitating development of a service system that:

- is consumer- and family-centered and directed;
- Provides individualized supports & other assistance; and

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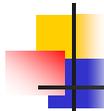
## DD Council Goals

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Ensures that that individuals with DD can:

- exercise maximum self-determination;
- be independent, be productive; and
- be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

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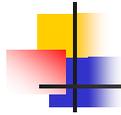


## Major Board Activities

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- Service System Assessment
- Investment in New Approaches (grants)
- Policy
- Advocacy and Leadership Training
- Public Awareness and Information
- Planning and Evaluation

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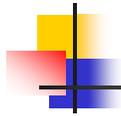


## 2008 Biennial Assessment

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- Second edition – First edition published in 2006.
- Focus –State funded, operated, or licensed services & supports in: Early Intervention, Education, Community Living, Institutional care, Health, Housing, Transportation, Employment, Advocacy, & Emergency Preparedness.

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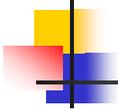


## 2008 Biennial Assessment

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- Focus of the Assessment is on individuals with developmental disabilities due to federal legislative mandate
- However, much of the information addresses other disability populations

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## What is a Developmental Disability

- Defined by the federal DD Act, a developmental disability manifests before age 22, results in 3 or more functional limitations and is expected to require services and supports across the lifespan.
- Includes intellectual disability, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and many more.

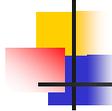
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## 2008 Biennial Assessment

- 6 public comment forums statewide; comment by email, phone, mail
- Consultation with & input by state agencies
- Extensive document reviews
- Review of Research – national reports & studies, analysis of trends, patterns.

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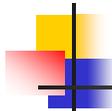


## Findings

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- Progress
  - Concerns
  - Recommendations
- (4 areas: **Community Living, Housing, Employment, & Transportation**)

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## Progress: Community Living Supports

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- Increased commitment to community based services and supports
- Recognition by legislators and policy-makers of community needs and reimbursement rate issues

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## Progress: Community Living Supports

- Dedicated professionals at state and local level and in private sector
- Increased availability of consumer directed services
- Money Follows Person and Systems Transformation initiatives and work by Office of Community Integration

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## Concerns: Community Living Supports

- System is highly compartmentalized and fragmented within service or disability silos (*Establishment year of DBHDS as DD agency, consistent with Board recommendations and a very positive step*).
- System has historically lacked a person centered focus and a lifespan design

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## Concerns: Community Living Supports

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- Inadequate funding and services for non-waiver eligible individuals
- Significant, growing waiting lists for certain community services and programs

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## Concerns: Community Living Supports

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- Institutional bias
- Erroneous perceptions & assumptions regarding individuals with complex medical needs
- Inadequate access to technology that can increase independence

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## Concerns: Community Living Supports

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- Inadequate information for families and professionals
- Lack of reliable data on long-term systems needs
- Inadequate funding for Centers for Independent Living

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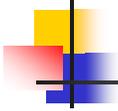


## Key Recommendations: Community Living Supports

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- Eliminate the current dual system of services by expanding community services & reducing institution use
- Develop an Inclusive Service System across the lifespan, not based on diagnosis & not solely dependent on Medicaid Waivers

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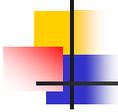


## **Key Recommendations: Community Living Supports**

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- Consolidate current Home & Community Based (HCB) Medicaid Waivers, and revise to include person-centered practices & service menus
- Improve access to HCB Waivers: Increase funding to eliminate Waiting Lists & bring waiting period to reasonable, predictable timeframes

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## **Key Recommendations: Community Living Supports**

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- Request JLARC study of administration for MR/ID & DD Waiver Waiting Lists to identify strengths/weaknesses, wait list criteria, & other factors affecting differential service planning and delivery

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## Key Recommendations: Community Living Supports

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- Increase provider reimbursement rates & establish a rate structure to ensure adequate qualified direct care staff
- Maximize availability of & resources to Centers for Independent Living, CILs

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## Key Recommendations: Community Living Supports

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- Ensure quality of life, health & safety for individuals with ID/DD residing in community settings licensed by DBHDS through review and restructuring of licensure regulations to include quality of life/outcome indicators.

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## Key Recommendations: Community Living Supports

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- Increase availability of consumer-directed services & implement individualized budgeting
- Review current guardianship processes & explore expansion of alternatives to guardianship which maximize choice and self determination.

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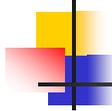


## Progress: Housing

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- Increased coordination among **housing** workgroups and entities (Current study being led by DBHDS is an example of this).
- Expansion of “visitability” home modification tax credit

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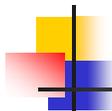


## Concerns: Housing

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- Lack of affordable, accessible housing – demand increasing, but supply stagnant
- Lack of differing housing options—reliance on group home model
- Lack of coordinated planning with public transportation

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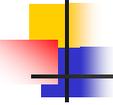


## Concerns: Housing

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- Stigma of Disability—NIMBY
- Dominant residential program models tie services to housing, reducing provider choice & mobility for individuals.

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## Key Recommendations: Housing

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- Prioritize rental assistance for persons with disabilities
- Ensure coordination of state planning & activities for accessible housing, to include transportation
- Improve coordinated financing & establish a state Housing Trust Fund

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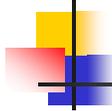


## Key Recommendations: Housing

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- Increase knowledge of & planning based on alternative housing models; and Expand adoption of proven strategies for creating new supportive housing
- Increase participation in community housing planning by persons with disabilities

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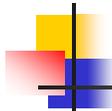


## Progress: Employment

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- The federally funded Disability Program Navigator initiative successfully assisted some One-Stop Centers in becoming fully accessible and in enhancing both outreach to & employment services for individuals with disabilities.

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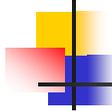


## Progress: Employment

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- In 2009, the General Assembly eliminated the disparity between supported employment rates under the VR system vs. the Medicaid Waivers.

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## Progress: Employment

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- Executive Directive # 8 (2007) requires “all Executive Branch agencies, boards, and commissions to review relevant hiring practices & expand existing efforts for recruiting, accommodating, retaining and advancing people with disabilities”.

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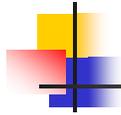


## Concerns: Employment

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- Disproportionate unemployment and under-employment
- VR Agencies' implementation of Order of Selection as a result of economic constraints (new categories recently opened by DRS)

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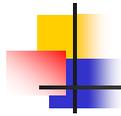


## Concerns: Employment

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- Fragmentation of employment services & inadequate inter-agency coordination among workforce agencies.
- Focus on job placement rather than career development, including overuse of sheltered settings.

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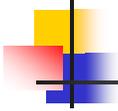


## Concerns: Employment

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- Some One-Stop Workforce Centers are inaccessible to people with disabilities.
- Under-utilization of the Medicaid Buy-In program, Medicaid Works, compared to other states

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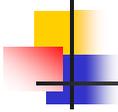


## Key Recommendations: Employment

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- Provide greater career options & opportunities for individuals with disabilities
- Expand & make more flexible, employment training, job coaching, AT, & other accommodations.

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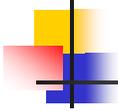


## Key Recommendations: Employment

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- Eliminate barriers to work incentive utilization of work incentives through expanded training and increased inter-agency coordination.
- Provide sufficient funding to eliminate VR waiting lists and to lift the Order of Selection.

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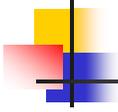


## Key Recommendations: Employment

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- Explore funding resources for continuation of the Disability Program Navigator initiative, thereby increasing program accessibility & employment services to individuals with disabilities  
*Note: since the time of this report, funding has been renewed.*

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## Progress: Transportation

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- 2007 MOU related to Coordinated Human Service Transportation in Public & Non-public transit systems with the aim of improved coordination & reduced duplication among the state agencies coordinating, funding or providing services.

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## Area of Concern: Transportation

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- Inadequate transportation that is reliable & accessible, especially in rural areas
- Inadequate coordination and planning of transportation services with housing
- Continued quality assurance challenges with Medicaid transportation brokerage system

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## Areas of Concern: Transportation

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- Lack of uniform, consistent data collection re: existing resources and both capital & operational costs
- Lack of stoop-to-curb service by paratransit services and related liability issues

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## Key Recommendations: Transportation

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- Develop and implement a coordinated human services & public transportation planning model
- Increase funding for public transportation, specifically establish a stable, adequate funding base at local levels

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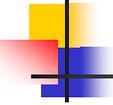


## Key Recommendations: Transportation

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- Promote adoption of the Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) Toolkit in localities
- Ensure uniform data collection to support transportation coordination efforts & to monitor progress

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## Recommendations: Transportation

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- Increase training/education on disabilities to all public transportation drivers, including paratransit
- Improve quality assurance for non-emergency Medicaid transportation

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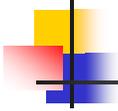


## What do we need?

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- Policy Leadership in infrastructure development, capacity building, systems change.
- Opportunities to bring about collaborative systems change through public awareness and education
- Funding for programs that make a difference in moving the system forward in a consumer-directed manner.

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## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

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