

**Budget amendment providing funding for the Disability Commission for the next fiscal year.** The second enactment clause of House Bill 817 (2004), creating the Virginia Disability Commission, provided that "if the Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in the Appropriation Act for any year thereafter" the Disability Commission would expire on July 1 of the fiscal year for which the Commission failed to receive funding.

**Legislation to expand the scope of the Disability Commission's work to include issues affecting all persons with disabilities.** Legislation amending § 30-232 by striking the words "physical and sensory" to expand the scope of the Disability Commission's work to include identification and recommendation of legislative priorities and policies for adoption or examination by the General Assembly in order to provide ongoing support in developing and reviewing services and funding related to Virginians with all disabilities.

**Budget amendment to provide funding to create/support additional front line Adult Protective Services workers.** The Department of Social Services reported that preliminary data for FY 2009 showed a total of 15,400 reports of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation, a record 7.6% increase over the previous year. Of the cases reported, 4,620 (31%) involved allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an incapacitated adult between the ages of 18 and 59.

**Budget amendment to provide funding to reduce waiting lists for home-based companion and chore services by 10% in each year of the next biennium.** The Department of Social Services reported that approximately 15% of people receiving in-home companion, chore, and homemaker services to delay or avoid placement in an assisted living or nursing facility are persons under the age of 60 who have a disability

**A resolution urging the Department of Social Services to conduct a comprehensive public awareness and education program on the identification, prevention, and reporting of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults who have a disability.** This might require a budget amendment allocating funding to support public awareness and education activities.

**A letter to encourage Virginia's Congressional Delegation to support the federal Elder Justice Act, which would provide federal coordination of and funding for state Adult Protective Service programs.**

**A budget amendment to increase income caps for eligibility for MEDICAID WORKS, Virginia's Medicaid Buy-In program, from 80% of the Federal Poverty Level to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.**

**A budget amendment providing funding to increase availability of workplace supports to allow for expanded employment options for persons with disabilities.**

**Legislation and budget amendment to establish and fund Regional Deaf Service Centers, to provide coordinated services to persons who are deaf or have hearing loss.** The Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing noted that development of regional deaf service centers was consistent with the findings of the Statewide Interagency Team, which consisted of agencies that have statewide programs and services specific to persons who are deaf or have hearing loss. During 2007 and 2008, the Statewide Interagency team collected data and information from stakeholders statewide to identify needs.

**Support adoption and implementation of recommendations and strategies included in the *Olmstead* Strategic Plan developed by the Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission, including the following:**

- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities are able to plan, fully understand, and choose among services and supports they need, self-directing those services to the greatest extent possible.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that, in order to achieve this goal, the Commonwealth should: provide services and supports that are appropriate to and respectful of the individual, affordable, accessible, available, diverse, reliable, safe and accountable; allow self-determination and consumer direction of services and supports to the extent possible; provide maximum opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families to participate in planning and developing services and supports as well as policy planning; assure that individuals with disabilities and their families know about these services and supports and the choices that are available to them; encourage independence and community involvement through livable/walkable communities, beginning with local comprehensive plans and continuing through implementation that provides transportation, housing, employment, and access to services; and address the institutional bias in the State Medicaid Plan by balancing community and institutional services.
- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities are able to choose among individuals and agencies qualified to provide the services and supports they select.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that in order to increase the availability of qualified providers, Virginia should embrace creative solutions, including public/private partnerships, and ensure that adequate compensation is provided for services rendered.
- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities are able to locate and obtain housing appropriate to their needs and preferences.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that housing should be separate from supportive services and not be contingent on the receipt of services; however, supportive services must be available, accessible if needed and desired, flexible and individualized. They suggest that the use of Universal and EasyLiving Home Design should become standard practice in the development of new housing, and that, if embraced at the beginning of the planning process, Universal and EasyLiving Home Design can be an affordable development option.

- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities are able to locate and obtain a job if appropriate.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that the dignity, responsibility, and economic independence resulting from gainful employment is the most effective way of reducing dependence on public benefits, enhancing self-reliance, changing attitudes, and promoting full community integration of individuals with disabilities.
- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities are able to access transportation appropriate to their needs.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that transportation of all kinds, including safe and appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities (“complete streets”) and paratransit must be consistently available, affordable, accessible, reliable, and safe, and meet the needs of individuals with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth, in both rural and metropolitan areas.
- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities who lack capacity to make decisions have the same choices, options, and benefits as other Virginians with disabilities through a surrogate or supportive decision-maker qualified to act on their behalf.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that every such individual should have a means by which decisions and choices may be made on his or her behalf. Options may include advance directives and appointed surrogate decision-makers. The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that decisions or choices should be made by an appropriate surrogate/supportive decision-maker if an individual with a disability cannot make the decision or choice independently.
- **Support efforts to ensure that Virginians with disabilities have access to ongoing supports in order to stay in the most integrated setting of choice, self-directing services to the greatest extent possible.** The Olmstead Work Group and the Community Integration Advisory Commission state that in order to assure choices to individuals with disabilities, ongoing community support and services must be available and reflect the importance of Virginia’s full continuum of care.