

## **Notes from the October 5, 2005 Disability Commission Housing Work Group meeting:**

Present: Denise Goode (Chair - VRS), Teri Baker-Morgan (VBPD), Anne Davis (HUD), Christina Delzingano (The Arc), Bill Ernst (VHDA), Sharon Fairburn (VHDA), Bill Fuller (VHDA), Barry Merchant (VHDA), Skip Stanley (CSB), Teja Stokes (DMAS), Pat Davis (Staff- DLS).

### **Assisting local planning commissions with implementation of new comprehensive plan requirements under Code of Virginia § 15.2-2223, as amended in 2005.**

Denise Goode recounted that the group previously discussed assisting localities in complying with new comprehensive plan requirements, enacted in 2005, that require localities to include the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities in their comprehensive plans. Ms. Goode advised the group that she has secured \$10,000 to be used for this endeavor. She hopes that the total ultimately may reach \$30,000.

There was lengthy discussion about comprehensive planning in general and the differing needs of different communities, as well as questions that have arisen from the legislation. The group discussed various ways to assist the localities, including templates and providing best practices as examples. The need for a consistent statewide approach to this challenge was expressed.

The work group determined that it would benefit from information from Harrison Rue, of the Transportation and Housing Alliance. Teri Barker-Morgan offered to arrange a presentation as soon as feasible.

The group also determined that, after the presentation, a steering group would determine how to move forward on this front. The possibility of making information available at next spring's meeting of local planners was discussed.

### **Discussion of zoning issue – group homes for people with disabilities**

The work group discussed the statute, Code of Virginia § 15.-2291, that allows single family zoning of certain group homes. The group noted that in 2005 the General Assembly passed HJR 685 (Hall), creating a joint subcommittee to study licensing requirements and enforcement of licensing standards, as well as concentration of group homes in certain neighborhoods. The work group did not make any recommendation with regard to this Code section, but noted the upcoming meeting dates for the joint subcommittee.