

THE VIRGINIA DISABILITY COMMISSION

2007 DRAFT WORK PLAN

"The purpose of the [Disability] Commission is to identify and recommend legislative priorities and policy 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 physical and sensory disabilities." (Code of Virginia § 30-232).

The Commission's work can be divided into four major categories: 1) Housing (Access, Affordability, ect.), 2) Employment (how can the Commission increase the percentage of disabled Virginians who are employed) 3) Transportation (addressing the specialized needs of disabled Virginians) and 4) miscellaneous issues that impact the lives of the disabled Virginians.

In 2007, the Disability Commission Housing Work Group (DCHWG), has been tracking issues, including, but not limited to the Qualified Allocation Plan, the Housing Trust fund, the Easy Living Home Coalition, common areas of interest between the Housing Commission and the Disability Commission, and the Transportation and Housing Alliance. Likewise, Mr. Rothrock and the staff of the Department of Rehabilitative Services have continued to focus on employment of the disabled and they have already updated the Commission on several initiatives and issues impacting the employment of disabled citizens.

Additionally, the Commission intends to concentrate its next meeting (the 3rd) on transportation issues and hopes to hear from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, amongst other organizations, regarding those issues.

The Commission will also focus on miscellaneous issues such autism and brain injury in 2007 as well as programs such as the Consumer Services Fund, Money Follows the Person Grant Proposal, the Assistive Technology and Recycling and several others. With that said, the following is an approximation of what each meeting will cover or has covered.

June 5, 2007

The Commission discussed:

1) Staff gave an update regarding the legislative session and reported that the Sunset Provision of the Disability Commission was extended to July 1, 2012, and that the General Assembly passed the Livable Home Tax Credit, which allows a \$500 tax credit for retrofitting or constructing a home to allow universal visitability.

2) Mr. James Rothrock gave an update regarding Video Teleconferencing and other initiatives that may assist disabled citizens to be gainfully employed.

3) Mr. Richard Kriner addressed DSBs and the progress of accurately reporting outcomes.

4) The DCHWG updated the Commission on its activities and presented on the topic of the Portability of Auxiliary Grants.

August 13, 2007

The Commission plans to address:

1) The Money Follows the Person Grant Proposal

2) The Consumer Services Fund

3) Emergency Response Services for the Disabled

4) Assistive Technology and Recycling

The Commission will also receive an update from the DCHWG and an update on the progress of locating a proper agency "home" for autism.

Future Meetings

The Commission intends to focus on transportation at its next meeting and will use the fourth meeting to summarize and organize any legislative initiatives or action that Commission wishes to take and hear about any other miscellaneous issues including, but not limited to, brain injury.