

# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Biennial Assessment of the

Disability Services System  
in *Virginia*



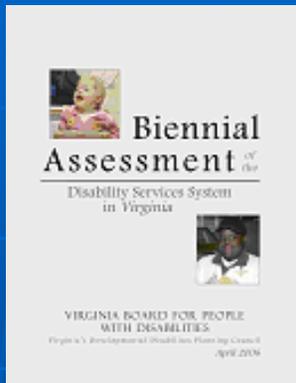
VIRGINIA BOARD FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES

Virginia's Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

*April 2006*

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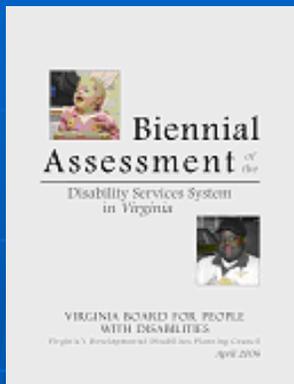
# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Produced in accordance with:

- The **Code of Virginia** that directs the Board “to submit biennially...an assessment of the needs of persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth”.
- The federal **Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act** that requires the Board to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the state’s disability service system as the basis of its Five Year State Plan.

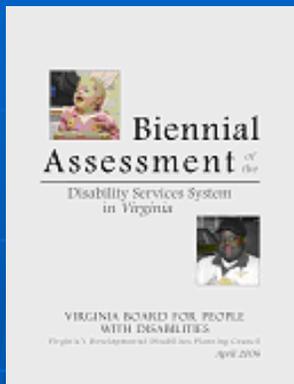
# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Recipients include:

- Governor,
- Members of the General Assembly,
- Secretary of Health and Human Resources,
- Other Cabinet Secretaries,
- State and Local Boards and Agencies,
- Professional and Advocacy Organizations,
- Other Disability Services Stakeholders.

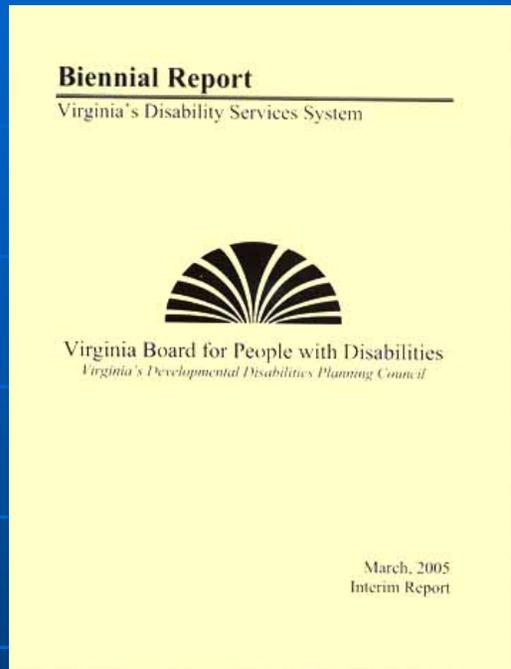
# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Product of a two year process:

- Research & development by Board staff and consultants.
- Service system information solicited from multiple state and local agencies and service-providers.

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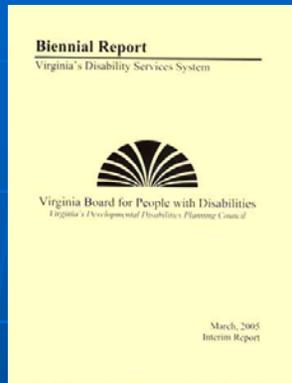


## *Interim Biennial Report:*

- Released for public comment in March 2005.
- Six regional **Public Comment Forums** in Norfolk, Harrisonburg, Arlington, Richmond, Roanoke, and Abingdon...
- Plus feedback by post, phone, fax and e-mail...
- From consumers of disability services, service-providers, decision-makers, and advocates.

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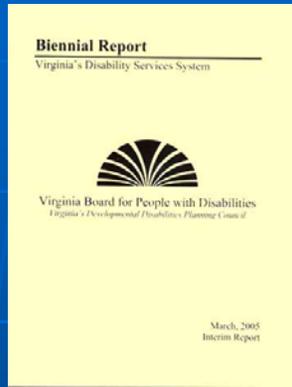
# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Public Feedback:

- Include additional programs and services omitted in the interim draft.
- Expand the range of services covered.
- Organize the information by fundamental service needs across the lifespan, not by the agencies which provide them.
- Provide additional details arranged by how services are accessed, funded, and evaluated.

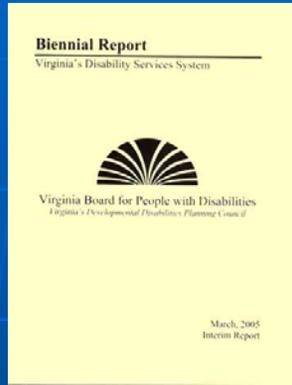
# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Public Feedback, continued:

- Expand coverage of critical issues.
- Include Board recommendations for addressing those issues.
- Make it easier to find information on specific programs or providers.
- Make the report more understandable with less jargon, “buzz-words”, and acronyms.

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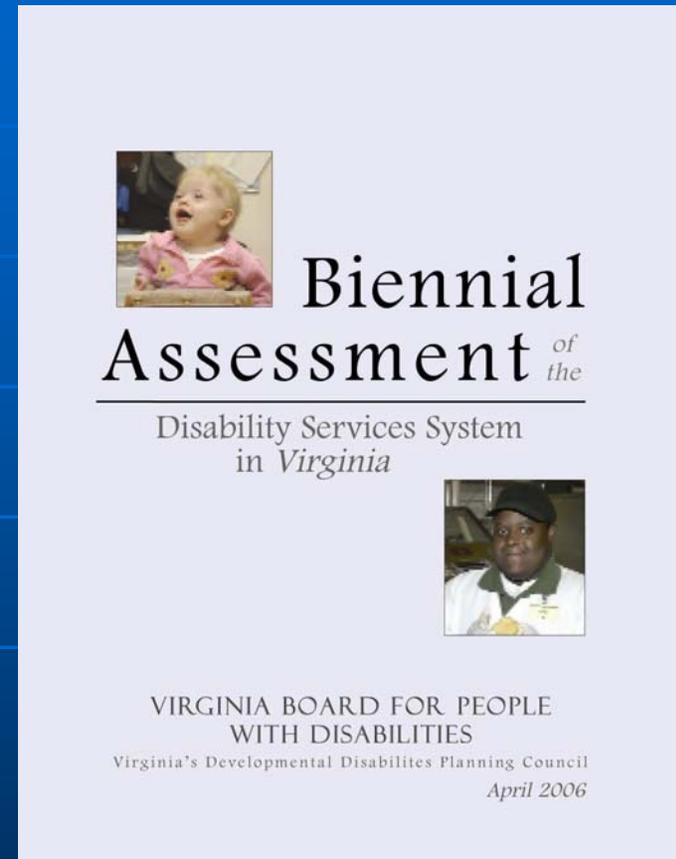
## The Board's Response:

- Additional research and extensive rewriting.
- Expanded and up-dated information from service-providers.
- Careful fact-checking by partner agencies.
- Thorough consideration of concerns identified by partners, system evaluators, the public, and the Board's own experiences.

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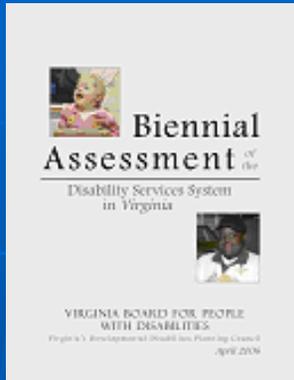
## The Result:

- A more comprehensive, reorganized, and “reader-friendly” assessment of Virginia’s disability services system.



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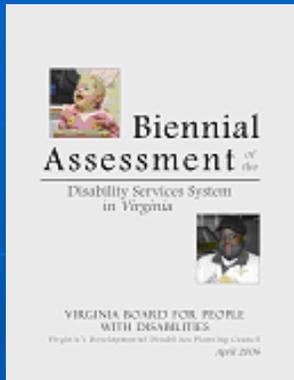


## Services covered:

- Early Intervention,
- Education,
- Community Living Supports,
- Institutional Care and Supports,
- Health Care,
- Community Housing,
- Transportation,
- Employment,
- Advocacy.

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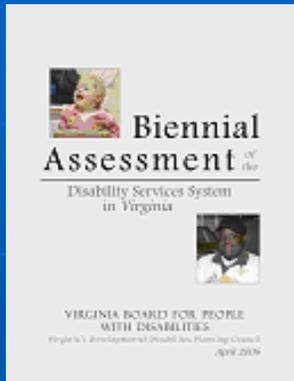


## Each chapter contains:

- A Service Definition and Needs Assessment
- Eligibility for Services
- How Services Are Accessed and Delivered
- What Services Are Available
- Cost and Payment Information
- Monitoring and Evaluation Systems
- **Critical Issues**
- **Board Recommendations**
- References

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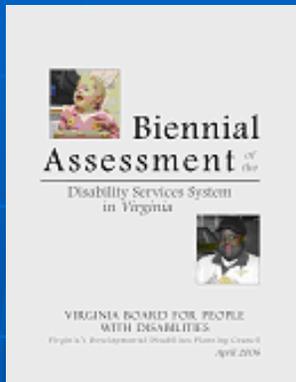


## Additional Features:

- A **Preface** explaining the background, scope, and methodology for the report.
- A **Table of Contents** for locating particular service chapters and sections.
- A detailed **Index** for quickly locating information on specific services or providers.
- An **Executive Summary** summarizing more than 80 critical issues and 54 Board recommendations.

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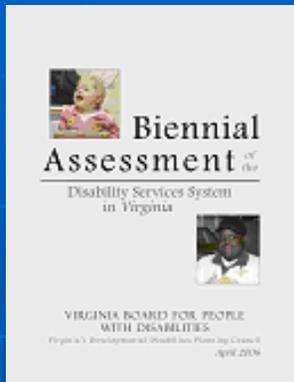
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## Key Issues and Trends:

- Services are administered in highly **compartmentalized and fragmented systems** based on historical definitions that no longer apply.
- There is no dedicated **funding** stream or service system for individuals with developmental disabilities other than mental retardation.

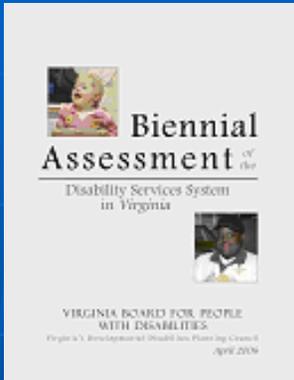
# Virginia Board for People with Disabilities



## Key Issues and Trends, continued:

- Virginia's funding for **community-based vs. institutional services** lags behind most of the nation.
- **Services for children** continue to face challenges in funding, consistency, and availability of qualified service-providers.

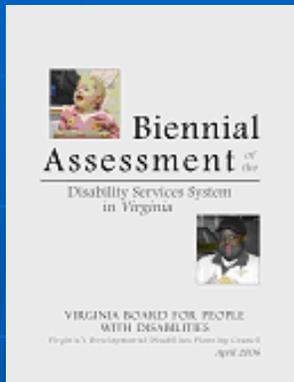
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## Key Issues and Trends, continued:

- The Commonwealth lacks a coordinated system and infrastructure for **employment** services for people with disabilities.
- Inadequate, unreliable, or inaccessible public **transportation** services contribute to dependency and negatively impact access to other services.

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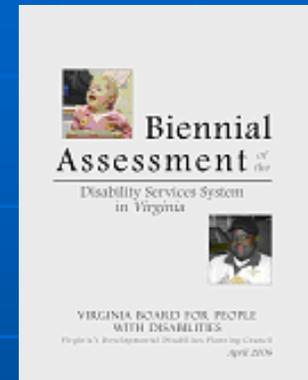
## Key Issues and Trends, continued:

- The gap between demand for affordable, accessible **housing** and its availability continues to widen.
- There is an acute shortage of affordable, accessible **health care** providers for people with disabilities, especially for dental and other specialty care.

## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

### Specific Recommendations address:

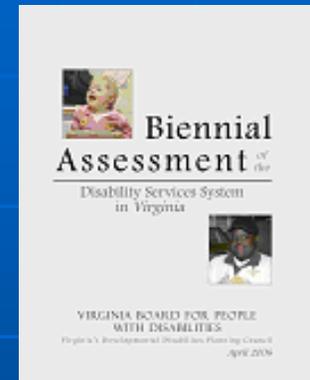
- Replacing Virginia's current institution-based service system with one emphasizing **community-based services**.
- Moving from a provider-focused system to **individual and family directed services**.



## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

### Specific Recommendations, continued:

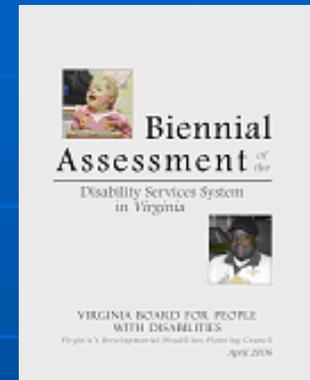
- Reducing **waiting lists** for Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers and providing individuals with service options other than institutionalization.
- Raising **service-provider rates** to ensure that direct care workers receive a competitive wage and to enable providers to attract and retain trained, capable, and committed workers.



## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

### Specific Recommendations, continued:

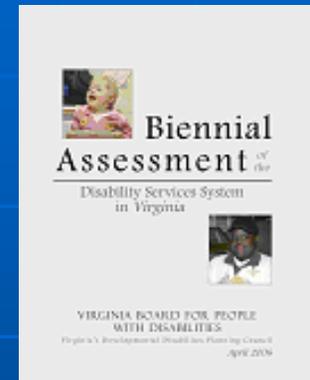
- Working with families and community providers to address **quality of life and safety concerns** and explore creative options that build networks and supports around individuals.
- Broadening Medicaid coverage to include **dental care** for adult Medicaid recipients with disabilities.



## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

### Specific Recommendations, continued:

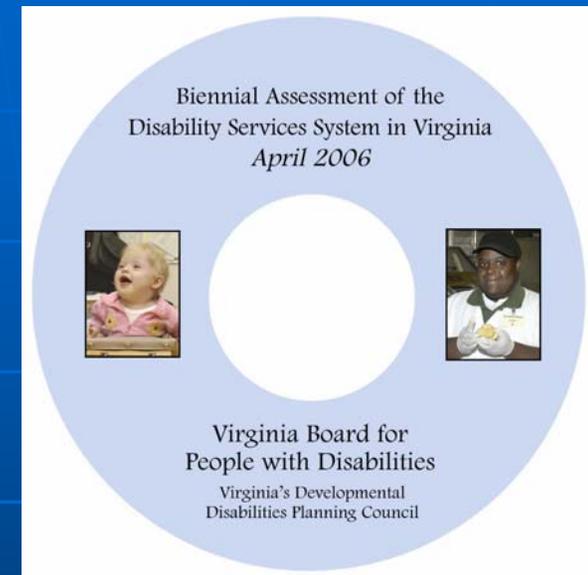
- Building an **integrated transportation planning** system that better leverages Virginia's resources and better serves all of its citizens.
- Improving coordination among state agencies to reshape the structure and support for **affordable and accessible housing** for individuals with the full range of disabilities.



## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

The *Biennial Assessment* is available in **multiple formats**, including:

- Printed copies (limited supply),
- **CD-ROM**,
- “wav” and “mp3” **audio**,
- other **accessible formats** (upon request), and
- on the Board’s website at **[www.vaboard.org](http://www.vaboard.org)**.



**For more information**  
or to request a copy,  
please contact the...

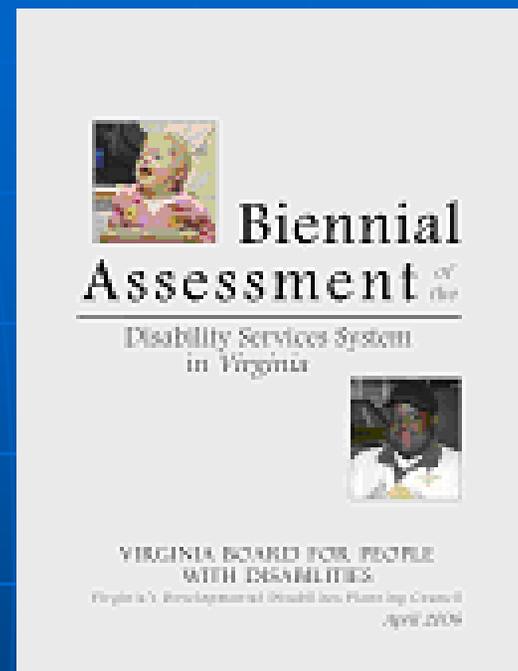
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