



NewsNotes

A quarterly Publication of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association
2012 Second Quarter, April-June, No. 46

Presidential Pondering by Ned Campbell

It might not seem like it, but there was actually an incredible amount of substantive work accomplished in the General Assembly in the area of disability priorities. From the sensational media headlines one would think there was only division and contention going on at the Capitol. It was questionable whether even a budget would get negotiated at all. While all this was going on, your VRA and partner organizations kept working effectively to promote bipartisan leadership on behalf of needed funding and sensible legislative initiatives that will have substantial positive impact for decades to come on individuals with disabilities and the VR professionals that serve them.

You will read in this edition of NewsNotes many of the fantastic results from the legislative work. As a member of VRA you can be greatly encouraged that even in the toughest of times there are many individuals and leaders from across the political spectrum who understand that individuals with disabilities are an asset to the Commonwealth. An asset that is often untapped and that has a significant contribution to make. We know that professional services and supports are the key to unlocking these potentials.

As a member of VRA you support the educational and advocacy efforts that help make the case for professional VR services. We are fortunate to have our legislative liaison, Becky Bowers-Lanier, to coordinate efforts at the state level. We are also fortunate to have the experience and commitment of members like Bonnie Hawley, Eleanor Williams and Lori Schultz who were willing to take their own time and pay most of their own way to attend the NRA Legislative Summit. This included visits to Congress to educate Virginia's Representatives and Senators about priorities and ask for their support.

It is not said often enough that VRA members are making tremendous contributions and it should be celebrated frequently, and at least once a year! Thanks to Sandra Mottesherd and the board members of our

VRCEA division for sponsoring a great Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day with excellent workshops, good food and prizes.

I want to mention a few individuals that have been doing yeoman's (yo-woman's) work at the state and national level. Susan Green for managing our successful mentoring program for new VR counselors and to



Commissioner Rothrock for supporting them as well. To Eleanor Williams for her representation on the NRA Board as our Mid Atlantic representative, and her diligent work managing our own financial affairs. These commitments take time and a personal financial

commitment that is a high value on behalf of our members. I would like to make a special note appreciation for the work that Mary Kaye Johnston has been doing to help the NRA with data entry and membership reports. This work has certainly helped VRA but she is also helping all state associations and they are all mentioning how valuable her assistance has been.

Every VRA member is important. The work accomplished by VR professionals has tangible, long-term value to the clients you serve. The work is also valuable to the Commonwealth. While this work is not necessarily adequately understood or satisfactorily quantified, it yields a definite, financial return on the investment of public and private funds. This year we are looking forward to the release of additional studies that will focus on the value of RIO. My personal prediction is that no matter what the studies show, we will always be able say, "the work our members do is truly priceless!"

--Submitted by Ned Campbell



VRA News

2012 Collaborations Conference Update

Save the Date!
Collaborations Conference 2012
September 30 - October 2, 2012
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront

Co-hosted by

VRA - Virginia Rehabilitation Association
VA-APSE - The Virginia Association for Persons In Supported Employment
vaACCSES - The Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs

VRA Awards Nominations

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. GET BUSY, LOOK AROUND, AND COMPLETE A NOMINATION PACKAGE FOR THAT DESERVING SOMEONE! The Awards Committee will be accepting nominations until August 3, 2012. Award descriptions as well as the nomination form (page 4) are included here. Don't put it off, take the time right now and nominate someone you feel is deserving of an award. Nominations can be submitted by email/mail to:

Eleanor Williams
c/o DRS – CBS Division
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229
Phone: 804-662-7075
Fax: 804-662-7663
Email: Eleanor.williams@drs.virginia.gov

VRA AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Norman C. Hammond Award: Mr. Hammond was credited with creating "IBM Data Processing for the Handicapped" Program. This award was established to honor business and industry leaders whose contributions to the field of rehabilitation in Virginia are outstanding and result in the employment of persons with disabilities. Eligible for this award may be organizations or industrial leaders that have made a contribution to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities in activities over and beyond the purpose for which the organization was established. Preference is given to individuals or organizations that have effectively and actively advocated for individuals with disabilities; introduced innovative programs and approaches to rehabilitation; and impact rehabilitation beyond the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Franz Stillfried Barrier Free Achievers Honor Roll: Established in 1988 to recognize efforts made by individuals, businesses or organizations for the removing of architectural, attitudinal and environmental barriers. A plaque honoring Mr. Stillfried's work for more accessible facilities was prepared and presented to Mr. Stillfried's family when this award was established. Awarded to an individual who has exercised notable leadership in either removing environmental, attitudinal or legal barriers and/or has contributed to the attainment of independence for persons with disabilities by significantly supporting the growth of rehabilitation services throughout Virginia. The purpose of this award is threefold:



(1) to develop a cooperative resource link between Virginia's Mayors' Committees/Commissions and the Virginia Rehabilitation Association; (2) to increase awareness and share information on innovative projects; and (3) to generate more activities and participation in barrier removal.

Dr. Roy M. Hoover Award for Outstanding Medical Achievement: Dr. Hoover of Tallahassee, Florida, former Roanoke orthopedic surgeon and former medical director of Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, initiated this award at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. In 1969 WWRC requested that the Virginia Rehabilitation Association accept the responsibility for its administration. It honors a physician practicing in Virginia who has given outstanding medical rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities and whose contributions are substantial. This nominee may have a local, statewide, or regional impact on services to clients through rehabilitation, in the field of medicine or in any field, rehabilitative in nature. Length of service in Virginia and voluntary efforts is a consideration.

A. R. Dawson Humanitarian Award: In 1971, Dr. Dawson, Director of geriatric and rehabilitation services for the Virginia Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals, initiated this award with a \$1,000 grant and presented the first award. It is presented for outstanding services to people with disabilities by a practitioner, who is not in an administrative or supervisory position. Awarded to a professional person having direct contact with persons with disabilities in the rehabilitation process, and whose efforts have had a significant impact on their lives. Individuals may have worked in psychology, vocational evaluation, or medical specialties.

R.N. Anderson Award for Leadership: In 1986 a classroom at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Anderson, the first Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. This award is given to a current member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association who has demonstrated excellence in services to persons with disabilities. The first R.N. Anderson Award was presented in 1961.

Virginia Rehabilitation Association Distinguished

Achievement Award: Awarded to a person with a disability who has demonstrated imagination, perseverance, resolve, and an indomitable spirit in working to overcome barriers in their lives resulting in a better quality of life for themselves and others. When making nominations for this award, volunteer work, part time and full time employment is a consideration but not a requirement.

Corbett Reedy Award for Excellence: This award was created in 1985 to honor Corbett Reedy who was a Virginia Rehabilitation Association service provider, as well as an official of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Upon his retirement to his native Virginia, he was appointed to serve on the policymaking Board of the Department of Rehabilitative Services. Awarded to a resident of Virginia currently involved in the rehabilitation field, but not limited to rehabilitation professionals. This person must have creatively pursued excellence in contributions to the rehabilitation program, projects, issues, publications or a significant rehabilitation cause. Excellence in the field of service to persons with disabilities is recognized through this award.

--Submitted by Eleanor Williams

Benjy Burnett Annual Golf Tournament Update

It is spring time and time to start planning for the 2012 VRA Annual Benjy Burnett Golf Tournament scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th at Hunting Hawk Golf Club. Our committees chaired by Beth Groff (Hole Sponsors), Liz Smith (Teams) and Eleanor Williams (Prizes and Food) have already been busy with some initial planning and work. If you are not already working with one of these committees we need YOU! VRA can have a successful and prosperous event if we all work together. Let's make this the best tournament since we started in 2000. Looking forward to your participation and help with the tournament.

--Submitted by Howard and Susan Green



**VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Award _____

Name of Nominee _____

Nominee's Address _____

SUPPORT FOR NOMINEE

(1) On a separate page, please submit a statement detailing why the nominee is deserving of the award. Please provide historical information that supports the nomination. The nominee's resume or curriculum vita may also be included.

(2) Please include supporting documents from others knowledgeable of the nominee's outstanding accomplishments.

Name of Nominator _____

Nominator's Address _____

Telephone Number (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Nominations and supporting documents must be received by:

Eleanor Williams, @ DRS-CBS Division, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23229 or
eleanor.williams@drs.virginia.gov

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS AUGUST 3, 2012



VRA Division and Committee News

Legislative Liaison & Committee Report

The budget

The General Assembly work is *almost* completed, with compromise on the 2012-2014 budget bill completed. However, the Governor still has the “opportunity” to recommend changes to the budget, and the General Assembly is likely to reconvene May 14th.

The DRS budget includes the following:

- \$6,684,358 the first year and \$6,684,358 the second year from the general fund shall be used as state matching dollars for the federal Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant ;
- \$70,00 each year for personal attendant services;
- \$1,725,000 and restoration of \$233,316 each year for the continuum of brain injury services;
- \$285,000 each year for direct case management of brain injury services in SW VA;
- \$150,000 each year for case management for brain injured individuals in unserved regions;
- \$388,279 each year for long-term rehab case management services;
- \$400,000 each year for restored funding for LTESS and ESS.

Thanks to the many advocates who worked on behalf of restoring funds that the Governor had proposed cutting in his introduced budget.

Bills we were monitoring

This year we worked with two coalitions: the Coalition for Virginians with Mental Disabilities and the Employment First Coalition. On the former, the focus was on budget amendment for DMAS, DBHDS, and DRS, so the work of that Coalition can be seen on the budget handout. For the latter, Employment First successfully navigated legislative channels as identified below.

- SB 523 (Hanger) provides for the Dept of Minority Business Enterprise to certify employment services organizations. By doing so, the DMBE will implement regulations permitting employment service organizations to be exempt from the Administrative Process Act. For organizations to be certified, they must be approved by DRS.
- SJ 127 (Hanger) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt and implement Employment First practices in providing and coordinating services to Virginians with disabilities.

The chart on pages 6-7 reflects the current status of the bills we were monitoring.



Bills	Committee	Last action	Date
HB 79 - Orrock - Disability Commission; establishing work groups to assist in carrying out powers and duties, etc.	(H) Committee on Rules <hr/> (S) Committee on Rules	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0741)	04/18/12
HB 382 - Pogge - Assistive technology devices; transfer of by school division.	(H) Committee on Education <hr/> (S) Committee on Education and Health	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0214)	03/10/12
HB 522 - Farrell - Statewide system of trails; use of wheelchairs or other power-driven mobility devices permitted.	(H) Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources <hr/> (S) Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0598)	04/04/12
HB 552 - Garrett - Mental health and developmental services; replaces certain terminology, technical amendments.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions <hr/> (S) Committee on Education and Health	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0507)	04/04/12
HB 1106 - Greason - Behavior and assistant behavior analysts; licensure by Board of Medicine.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions <hr/> (S) Committee on Education and Health	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0003)	02/07/12
HB 1222 - Hope - Public Procurement Act; definition of employment services organization, technical changes.	(H) Committee on General Laws <hr/> (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0632)	04/05/12
HB 1229 - Orrock - Persons with disabilities; SHHR to convene work group to develop plan to address needs.	(H) Committee on Rules <hr/> (S) Committee on Rules	(S) Incorporated by Rules (HB79-Orrock) (15-Y 0-N)	02/24/12
HB 1230 - Orrock - Protection and Advocacy, Virginia Office for; conversion to a nonprofit entity, report.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions <hr/> (S) Committee on Education and Health	(S) Signed by President as reenrolled	04/18/12
HB 1291 - Gilbert - Governor's reorganization of executive branch of state government.	(H) Committee on General Laws <hr/> (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(S) Signed by President as reenrolled	04/18/12



HB 1301 - Putney - Budget Bill.	(H) Committee on Appropriations <hr/> (S) Committee on Finance	(S) Continued to a 2012 Special Session of the General Assembly (15-Y 0-N)	03/09/12
HJ 23 - Morrissey - Employment First initiative; Secretary of Health and Human Resources to develop in State, report.	(H) Committee on Rules	(H) Left in Rules	02/14/12
SB 387 - Martin - Mental health and developmental services; replaces certain terminology, technical amendments.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions <hr/> (S) Committee on Education and Health	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0476)	03/30/12
SB 523 - Hanger - Minority Business Enterprise, Department of; certification of employment services organizations.	(H) Committee on General Laws <hr/> (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0583)	04/04/12
SB 557 - Howell - Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority; approval of loan applications.	(H) Committee on Science and Technology <hr/> (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0483)	03/30/12
SB 678 - McDougle - Governor's reorganization of executive branch of state government.	(H) Committee on General Laws <hr/> (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(H) Signed by Speaker as reenrolled	04/18/12
SJ 127 - Hanger - Employment First practices; SHHR, et al., to adopt, etc., in providing service to certain persons.	(H) Committee on Rules <hr/> (S) Committee on Rules	(S) Bill text as passed Senate and House (SJ127ER)	03/14/12

--Submitted by Becky Bowers-Lanier

VRA Foundation News

In just a few short weeks schools will begin their graduation programs and students will be making plans for either entering school in the fall for the first time or returning for another year. If you or a family member is interested in applying for some much needed financial assistance with education please don't forget about the VRA Foundation which offers scholarships. You can find out more about the Foundation as well as print out the application forms on the site: <http://www.vra.org/www/ngw/foundation.shtml>.

THANK YOU to those who have made a contribution to the VRA Educational Foundation in order to build the principle endowments from which financial scholarship awards are made to VRA members and their family members. Contributions can be sent c/o Howard Green.

--Submitted by Howard Green



VRA Education Committee Update

The VRA Workshop on Emotional Intelligence with Susan Green was held on April 24th in the DRS Central office in Richmond. Thirty-four registered for the training, the vast majority of which were DRS employees and non-VRA members. The book, *Working with Emotional Intelligence*, by Daniel Goleman, on which the training was based, was purchased and given out during the course of the training as a door prize.

A final VRA sponsored workshop will be offered in the Fall 2012, and will be focused on Ethics/Social Networking, as this has been a consistent and frequently requested training topic.

Thus far in 2012, approximately \$925.00 has been raised for VRA through educational opportunities. Consideration should be given to conducting another Training Needs Survey for planning for 2013. As well, we need to strategize how to better advertise training opportunities outside of DRS and expand upon our trainer resources.

--Submitted by Rob Froehlich

Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (VARL)

Greetings!

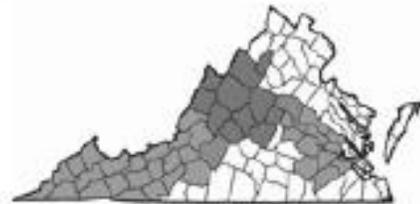
Spring is the time of renewal and vitality, and it is fully evident in the VARL Board right now. During our December planning meeting, the Board decided to form a new committee to plan the VARL Leadership Institute. The goal of the Institute will be to promote cutting edge leadership development trainings in the Rehabilitation field throughout the State of Virginia. The committee is well situated to make it happen.

The VARL Board would like to share with you some exciting trainings coming up this year:

On June 19, 2012 Terrie Glass will lead a daylong training entitled "Keys to Effective Collaboration: Facilitating a seamless response to consumers and their families". This training will be in Richmond (See page 10 for a Flyer of the training). There will also be a short VARL Board meeting during the training.

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VARL

Virginia Association
For Rehabilitation
Leadership

LEADERS EMERGE



The board agreed to sponsor two speakers for the collaborations this year. Amy Armstrong and Elizabeth Scott accepted our sponsorship. Ms. Armstrong presentation will focus on Positive Leadership and Ms. Scott training will be on Succession Planning.

On November 1, 2012, Sharon Harmon will lead an existing presentation on "Situational Leadership." This training will be in Roanoke.

Let me finish with another wonderful quote from Robert Greenleaf's book *Servant Leadership*: "If more serving institutions are to be built, individuals who want to serve must, on their own, become institution builders where they are."

Note: VARL has a new e-mail address: varleadersemerge@gmail.com.

--Submitted by Ralph Figaro

VRCEA President's Update

VRCEA is pleased to report we were able to provide a very successful official celebration of Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day designated through Senate Resolution as March 22nd. Opening remarks were provided by DRS Commissioner James Rothrock thanking rehabilitation professionals for their diligence and dedication in serving Virginians with disabilities. Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA) President, Ned Campbell then gave an overview of the advantages of joining a professional organization and offered to answer questions regarding VRA and its divisions, VRCEA and VARL. Ned remained available throughout the day to help those interested in joining with membership applications and handouts.

Dr. Amy Armstrong, current Chair of the VCU Department of Rehabilitation Counseling, then presented on tips for self care and ways for rehab counselors to be more effective while preventing burn out. We then had the pleasure of Pat Sitter, DRS Occupational Therapist, teaching us how to use iPads and iPods to help organize our day more effectively and to use these devices to help our clients utilize them more successfully. The day winded down with a guided meditation exercise offered by Victoria Antonich who taught relaxation techniques to the approximate 45 professionals in attendance.

A free luncheon was made available along with CRC credits to those who desired to

take advantage of them. VRCEA is happy to report the feedback via evaluation forms were positive and VRCEA plans to make this a yearly traditional celebration of gratitude to rehabilitation professionals.

VRCEA in keeping with its mission of providing continuing education to rehabilitation professionals is planning training this summer to be presented by Howard Green. A flyer will be forthcoming with more information as the training is finalized. The date has been set for July 19th.

VRCEA recently sponsored member, Lori Schultz, to attend the 31st Annual Government Affairs Summit to represent VRCEA. We look forward to her report at the next scheduled VRCEA board meeting on May 17th. VRCEA President, Sandy Mottesheard, has touched bases with Virginia Rehabilitation Counselor Association (VRCA), Becky Sprick, in an effort to collaborate on a training or project in the very near future. The effort follows a proclamation made in October 2011 between the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA), American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), and Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (RCEA) to commit to serve respective memberships and to collaboratively move forward. We look forward to a productive and active relationship in helping to advance the rehabilitation profession.

--Submitted by Sandra Mottesheard



Keys to Effective Collaboration: Facilitating a seamless response to consumers and their families

Having high quality services delivered by dedicated and skilled rehab professionals is critical to the success of our consumers. However, if those services and professionals are not well coordinated, respond inflexibly, or deliver in silos to the consumers, much of the potential effectiveness is lost. How can you, as one person in the array of service delivery, ensure that collaboration at the deepest level occurs? How do you facilitate, as one player in the mix, to bring everyone together effectively? In this workshop we will look at the key components to effective collaboration and identify the skills you can employ to facilitate the greatest value for those we all serve. This training will increase the awareness and skills of rehabilitation professionals at all levels in facilitating collaboration among teams and across disciplines in the service delivery system. Participants will learn key skills of Principled Negotiation and about communication differences that can impede collaboration among colleagues and agencies.

Terrie Glass is the President of Leadership Solutions. She had a 20 year career in the Community Services Board system and has been a trainer and consultant for the past 8+ years. Terrie's clients include those in behavioral health, rehabilitation services, healthcare, the financial industry and many others. She has done training for the Dept. of Rehabilitative Services, the Va. Rehabilitation Association as well as VARL in the past. She is energetic and passionate about the work of helping others – clients, staff, and ourselves – to reach the potential that lies within all of us. Terrie has a MSW, teaches at VCU, and has been a keynote speaker and presenter at the Collaborations Conference. She is a very effective trainer!

Tuesday, June 19, 2012; 9:15 – 3:30 (lunch on your own)

Check in and refreshments at 8:45 a.m.

(CRC credits available)

Henrico Area MH/DS East Center
4825 S. Laburnum Avenue, Henrico, VA 23231

\$15 VARL members/ \$25 non members

Pre-registration/payment requested due to seating limitations. **Disability related accommodation requests must be received by Monday, June 11.**

To register, contact Susan Green at Susan.Green@drs.virginia.gov or 804-305-4009. Mail your check payable to VARL to Attention: Susan Green, 8004 Franklin Farms Dr. Richmond, VA 23229



Other News & Notes

Virginia BLN: Building Lives One Employer at a Time

In 1904 a young deaf and blind woman became the first person with such a disability to earn a bachelor's degree and went on to become an American icon in determination and achievement. Many of us know the Helen Keller story and the challenges she must have faced in 1904. While American life for many classes and groups has greatly improved since 1904, many of the same stigmas about people with disabilities still exist to this day. Today most companies have diversity policies in place; however, only a handful of employers have a policy that is disability specific. As the United States unemployment rate currently hovers around 8%, the unemployment rate for workers with a disability has risen from 15.4% to 15.8% over the last year alone. Recent studies have found that less than half of employers target people with disabilities in their recruitment efforts.

In 1994 the United States Business Leadership Network (USBLN) was established through the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities to encourage the business community to embrace individuals with disabilities by promoting inclusion into the workplace. Today there are over 60 USBLN affiliates across the United States representing over 5,000 businesses.

In 1998 Crestar Bank (now SunTrust Bank) formed the Virginia Business Leadership Network (VABLN) within the bank's operation. In 2003 the VABLN became an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and later in 2010 SunTrust passed the leadership baton to Debra Ruh (Board of Directors Chair) and Liza Bruce (Executive Director). The VABLN is based in Richmond, Virginia but supports businesses throughout the Commonwealth. The VABLN is a business-to-business organization dedicated to building awareness and educating employers about the economic and business benefits of employing people with disabilities; with a primary focus on companies doing business in Virginia. In its brief existence, the VABLN has solidified important inroads with Virginia businesses by helping create supportive partnerships with the disability community. The VABLN arranges events with expert guest speakers whom cover topics that are of legal and technical importance to Virginia Businesses such as employer best practices and workforce solutions. In addition, the VABLN connects businesses with sources for employers needing professional support in meeting their disability recruiting and retention goals. To learn more about the VABLN visit <http://www.vabln.org/>.

--Written by Donald Thomas, VABLN Outreach Committee

New Agency To Be Created by the Commonwealth

Our state has *survived* yet another session of our General Assembly (GA) and the impact on our readership is historic. As noted in earlier issues, there has been an effort to develop a service delivery capacity to streamline services to *Vintage Virginians* and *Virginians with disabilities* who can benefit from services that support their independence, employment, and community living. After much debate, legislation was passed that creates a new state agency, likely to be named, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. As the current lead staff of both of these agencies, VDA and DRS, I am excited about the opportunities to eliminate both the silos that are found in programming and in *thinking and planning* that can have a negative impact on how we serve this population that is growing and demands the Commonwealth's very

best in planning for the future. With the elements to be added to this agency in July, 2013, from the Department of Social Services, our Commonwealth will have an increased capacity to positively impact the safety and quality of life for this population that our readership knows so well.

Below is an overview of some of the key issues that were addressed during the recently completed GA session and I would be remiss to note that unfortunately at the time of this printing, our state's budget was still a work in progress, but early indications are good that our network of services will be supported not only in policy but also with funds.



Government Restructuring

As a result of the Governor's Government Reform and Restructuring Committee, Delegate Gilbert and Senator McDougle introduced **HJ 49**, **HB 1291**, **SJ 66**, and **SB 678** in their respective chambers. The legislation sought a variety of different reforms including targeted changes in the area of human services. As introduced the bills created a new state agency combining DRS, VDA, DDHH, and adult services from the Department of Social Services (DSS) as well as consolidated the VDA staffed Public Guardian and Conservator Board and the Alzheimer's Commission into the Commonwealth Council on Aging.

While working its way through the legislative process, the legislation saw various different amendments. In the House, the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) was added to the list of agencies to be combined in addition to removing the Alzheimer's Commission from the consolidated boards in HB 1291. In the other chamber, the Senate removed the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the new agency structure leaving VDA, DRS, and parts of DSS in SB 678. The Senate also restored the VDA boards and councils to their standing as three separate entities. As the bills "crossed the hall" they were conformed to that bodies' version of the bill, where their amendments were rejected by the house of introduction and conferees were appointed.

The conference reports created a new agency which included DRS, VDA, and portions of DSS in July '13. In addition, the three VDA staffed boards and commissions remained freestanding and were not consolidated. Both chambers agreed to the conference reports.

Disability Commission and Studies

HB 79 (Orrock) sought several changes for the Disability Commission. The introduced version sought to codify workgroups related to housing and transportation, education and employment, and publicly funded services as well as repeal the sunset date of the Commission. Delegate Orrock, Chairman of the Disability Commission, also introduced **HB 1229**, which directed the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup composed of stakeholders to develop a plan to address the housing and transportation needs of Virginians with disabilities.

Ultimately HB 1229 was incorporated into HB 79 which passed unanimously.

Education

Delegate Pogge's **HB 382** sought to remedy a long-standing issue regarding the conveyance of assistive technology (AT) once a student exits a school system. The bill as originally signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate allowed a school division to transfer assistive technology devices purchased by the division to a different school division that the child transfers to and to a state agency that provides services to a child with a disability upon the child's graduation or when a school division ceases to provide special education services for the student. The original version of the bill would have allowed the assistive technology device to be transferred to the parents of a child with a disability or the child under certain circumstances. Recognizing the need to also allow for the transfer of AT to the child with a disability or their parents as originally included in the bill, the Governor recommended amendments to this effect which were adopted by the General Assembly.

Employment

A number of employment bills from technical to policy changes were handled during the 2012 session. Two resolutions dealt specifically with Employment First. **HJ 23** (Morrissey) requested the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to develop and implement an Employment First initiative with the initial goal for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving services through state agencies to be employment in an integrated, community setting earning an amount that is equal to or greater than minimum wage. The resolution was left in House Rules. Senator Hanger's **SJ 127**, which was adopted by the House and Senate, encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt and implement Employment First practices in providing and coordinating services to Virginians with disabilities.

Updated Code language was approved with the passage of **HB 1222** (Hope) in its amended version. Outdated language referring to "sheltered workshops" and "handicapped" was replaced with the terms "employment services organizations (ESOs)" and "individuals with disabilities." ESOs were also defined.



Senator Hanger also introduced **SB 523**. As amended and agreed to by the General Assembly, the bill authorizes the Department of Minority Business Enterprise to certify employment services organization for the purposes of participation in state contracts and purchases. The ESO must be an approved Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited vendor of DRS.

It was a busy session and one that holds great promise for Virginia's future, particularly in serving *Vintage Virginians* and *Virginians with disabilities*.

A *Commonwealth of Opportunity* is now a much more attainable goal.

--Submitted by James Rothrock, DRS Commissioner

Expansion of Community-Based Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability

Highlights from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) approved biennial budget for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 include:

\$30M in General Funds

As proposed by the Governor, the approved budget provides \$30 million in FY13 to build on efforts from the 2011 Session to expand efforts to facilitate transition of individuals with [intellectual disabilities] from state training centers to community-based services and address the needs of individuals in the community waiting for services. These funds will be deposited in the DBHDS operational budget rather than the Behavioral Health & Developmental Services Trust Fund. Budget language also directs that the unexpended appropriation as of June 30, 2012 in the Trust Fund, which was appropriated in 2011 for the expansion of community-based services shall be reappropriated and that with the approval of the Secretary of HHR and the Director of DPB these funds shall be transferred from the Trust Fund to the General Fund where they can be used for the purposes of complying with the agreement with the U.S. DOJ. From these amounts, the following waiver slots which are identified in the Settlement Agreement will be established:

- Community intellectual disability (ID) waiver slots: *FY12-13 – 225; FY13-14 – 225*
- Facility waiver slots: *FY12-13 – 160; FY13-14 – 160*
- Developmental Disability (DD) slots: *FY12-13 – 25; FY13-14 – 25*

Waiver slots added by the General Assembly

- **225 additional community intellectual disability (ID) waiver slots**
FY12-13 – \$2,551,725 GF / \$2,551,725 NGF
FY13-14 – \$7,645,763 GF / \$7,645,763 NGF
Provides 225 additional ID waiver slots (75 slots in FY13 and 150 slots in FY14) over the biennium for individuals with intellectual disabilities. These slots are in addition to those provided by the settlement agreement.
- **80 additional developmental disability (DD) waiver slots**
FY12-13 – \$371,950 GF / \$371,950 NGF
FY13-14 – \$1,193,900 GF / \$1,193,900 NGF
Provides 80 additional DD waiver slots (25 slots in FY13 and 55 slots in FY14) over the biennium for individuals with developmental disabilities to reduce the current waiting list of 1,075 individuals. These slots are in addition to those provided by the settlement agreement.

1% rate increase for personal care service of community waiver

FY 12-13 – \$3,187,405 GF / \$3,187,405 NGF
FY 13-14 – \$3,527,562 GF / \$3,527,562 NGF

Provides a one percent rate increase for personal care services provided under community-based Medicaid waiver programs effective July 1, 2012. Funding for personal care rates, which include respite and companion care, was reduced during the session.

1% rate increase in congregate residential services

FY 12-13 – \$1,996,773 GF / \$1,996,773 NGF
FY13-14 – \$2,110,177 GF / \$2,110,177 NGF

Provides a one percent increase in the reimbursement rate for congregate residential services.



Report on the closure of state Training Centers

In accordance with requirements in the settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Commonwealth, the General Assembly included language requiring DBHDS to submit a plan on the closure of state training centers. The plan would include input from stakeholders and providers and would be a due one year after the agreement is approved.

Behavioral Health Services

Funding for child psychiatry and children's crisis response

FY12-13 – \$1,500,000 GF

FY13-14 – \$1,750,000 GF

Provides funding for child psychiatry and children's crisis response services. Funds are to be utilized among the health planning regions based on the current availability of services with a report on the use and impact of funding due annually beginning in 2013.

Up to 5 drop-off centers on jail diversion programs

FY12-13 – \$600,000 GF

FY13-14 – \$600,000 GF

Funds are to be used to expand capacity for up to five drop-off centers to provide an alternative to incarceration for people with serious mental illness by ensuring prompt assessment and appropriate treatment for individuals picked up by local law enforcement officials. Funding will be targeted to programs that have implemented crisis intervention teams and have undergone planning to implement drop-off centers.

Keeping 13 beds open at Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI)

FY12-13 – \$600,000 GF

Provides funds to continue operating beds that were proposed for closure two years ago as a result of budget reductions at NVMHI. Budget language is added requiring a report on a long-term plan to ensure adequate bed capacity is available to serve individuals who require an inpatient bed for the treatment of acute mental illness.

Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR)

FY12-13 – \$2,774,446 GF

FY13-14 – \$3,743,753 GF

Provides funds for operational and staffing requirements to carry out the 2011 General Assembly's direction to double-bunk residents and increase VCBR's capacity to 450 beds.

10% increase in Part C case management

FY12-13 – \$274,752 GF / \$274,752 NGF

FY13-14 – \$274,752 GF / \$274,752 NGF

Provides funds to increase the Medicaid payment rate for Part C early intervention targeted case management for infants and toddlers with disabilities by 10 percent. Funding would increase rates from \$120 to \$132 per month. This will assist local lead agencies in providing additional case management services for families with infants and toddlers in need of these services.

--Excerpt from DBHDS Memo submitted by Shirley Lyons

The disAbility Resource Center Provides Trainings on Many Topics

During the first three months of 2012, the disability Resource Center (dRC), a Center for Independent Living (CIL), provided 26 trainings to the community on a variety of subjects including disability awareness and people first training to the local bus system, information on the deaf and hard of hearing to the Rappahannock Criminal Justice Academy, ADA and Employment to the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce, a driver safety class for seniors, Sibshops for brothers and sisters of those with disabilities, and information on bullying of youth. With "information and referral" being one of the four core services that CIL's offer, community training will continue this spring at the dRC. The next slate of trainings and workshops are:

Social Security Insurance and Social Security Disability Insurance will be discussed on May 10, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about the best way to apply for benefits, the requirements for benefits, keeping your benefits while you are working, and SSDI/SSI work incentives. Contact Kim Baker kbaker@cildrc.org or Grace Marshall gmarshall@cil.org to register.



Consumer Directed Personal Assistant Training, for those who want a rewarding and meaningful job and/or career of serving others, will be held May 11 at the dRC from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL), through a grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) titled "Improving and Expanding Consumer-Directed Services" is working across Virginia to develop a workforce of Consumer-Directed Assistants to provide supports to individuals with disabilities and to establish a web-based Consumer-Directed Assistant (CDA) Directory. Contact Kim Lett, klett@cildrc.org for information or to register.

American Sign Language Classes will begin May 22, 2012, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Each class lasts 6 weeks and costs \$70 dollars which includes a book. For information and to register, contact the dRC at 540-373-2559. All trainings are held at the dRC unless otherwise indicated. Accommodations are provided with advance notice.

The disAbility Resource Center supports people with all disabilities, their families and caretakers, and the community through no cost independent living skills training, peer counseling, equipment loans, health classes, trainings and workshops, advocacy, and information on community supports. The dRC believes in community inclusion and a purposeful life for people with disabilities of all ages.

--Submitted by Kim Lett

Change of address?

Does **YOUR NRA Membership Contact** information need to be changed?

There are several ways to make changes including contact with me or the NRA Office, BUT YOU can also make the changes YOURSELF!

You can logon to the Members Only page of the NRA website found at <http://www.nationalrehab.org> to make name, address, phone, fax, email address changes on your own. Be sure to **SAVE** the changes before exiting.

The default for logging in is your membership number, and the passcode is the last four digits of your telephone number. IF that doesn't work, or you don't have that information, let me know and I will be happy to get it for you.

Let's help NRA stay current with contact information changes so we continue to get the publications, notices, and email communications. You can also renew your membership from that page as well as check your payment and membership status.

Please also keep VRA informed by updating your contact information at info@vra.org. Thank you!

--Submitted by Mary Kaye Johnston



*Providing job training and employment
to people with disabilities since 1967*

The WorkSource Order of Selection

Category 1 - Call Us!

(434) 972-1730

Chuck McElroy, President

Donna May, Rehabilitation Services Manager

Category 2 - Email Us!

info@worksourceva.org

Category 3 - Visit Us!

1311 Carlton Avenue

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Category 4 - Check Us Out!

www.worksourceva.org

All Categories Are Open!

*WorkSource is celebrating its 45th Anniversary
of Service to Virginians with Disabilities*



LinkedIn: Join with other members of VRA and VARL!

Do you have a story to share? Go to the VRA member LinkedIn discussion board. This is a secure, professional networking site devoted to issues and interests of our members. VARL also has a site for leadership topics.

VRA LinkedIn Network: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2114298>

VARL LinkedIn Network: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2613703>

Join the VRA Facebook Group

Network with other members of VRA by joining the VRA Facebook group! Members can discuss VRA issues and upcoming events on this social networking website:

<https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/groups/258928867454860>

Please visit VRA.org

Please be sure to visit the VRA website at www.vra.org for important information about NRA and VRA news, updates on trainings and events, access to NewsNotes online, and photos of past VRA events!





VRA Events Calendar

Mark your calendars for these important dates for your state and national associations

May 17 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
June 12 th	VARL Board Meeting
June 19 th	VARL “Key to Effective Collaborations” training with Terrie Brass (See page 10 for details)
July 12 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
July 19 th	VRCEA Job Placement Training with Howard Green
July 20 th	VRA Board Meeting, Henrico/Richmond FRS Office, 2001 Maywill St, Richmond NewsNotes article submission deadline
Aug 14 th	VARL Board Meeting
Aug 24 th -26 th	NRA Annual Training Conference, Chicago, IL
Sept 6 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
Sept 21 st	VRA Board Meeting, DRS Central Office
Sept 30 th - Oct 2 nd	2012 Collaborations Conference, Virginia Beach
Oct (TBD)	Annual VRA Business Meeting, held during Collaborations Conference
Oct 19 th	NewsNotes article submission deadline
Nov 1 st	VARL Training on “Situational Leadership” with Sharon Harmon to be held in Roanoke
Dec 6 th	VRCEA Board Meeting
Dec 7 th	VRA Board Meeting, location TBD
Dec 11 th	VARL Board Meeting

Events and training programs also available on the VRA and NRA web sites.

Deadline for next issue’s NewsNotes articles is July 20th, 2012.

Send to newsnotes@vra.org

Virginia Rehabilitation Association
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<http://www.vra.org>



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Next Deadline for NewsNotes: July 20th.

**Please Submit NewsNotes articles to
Kristina Blough by Email at:
newsnotes@vra.org**

**Or send by US Mail to:
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