

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2006

(October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006)

February 2007 [FINAL]



VIRGINIA BOARD FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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Introduction

Under the federal, **Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000** (DD Act), each state and territory of the United States has a designated **Developmental Disabilities Council** (DD Council). The **Virginia Board for People with Disabilities** (the Board) serves as Virginia's DD Council and, to comply with the requirements of the DD Act, must operate under a **Five Year State Plan** (FYSP) which is submitted to the federal **Administration on Developmental Disabilities** (ADD) for monitoring. Each year, the FYSP must be updated as needed to meet changing conditions or needs within the state and resubmitted to the ADD.

In addition, each state's DD Council must submit an annual **Program Performance Report** (PPR) to the ADD documenting the outcomes of activities authorized and funded by the DD Act and guided by the goals and objectives of the FYSP during the previous federal fiscal year. The PPR is submitted to the ADD in an electronic format which requires specific identification of DD Council goals and objectives with corresponding strategies and performance targets. The ADD uses these state reports to inform Congress and others of the achievements made by DD Councils and their community partners in meeting the goals of the DD Act.

The following report, covering the fifth and final year of the Board's 2001-06 FYSP, is a reader friendly summary of the information submitted to the ADD by the Board for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 (FFY 06), which covers the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. In addition to the data already submitted to the ADD electronically, descriptive text has been added to make the data more understandable and to provide supplemental context and qualitative descriptions of the Board's activities. The reader may also wish to visit the ADD website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add> for more information about current and historic individual as well as aggregated data for all state and territorial DD Councils.

The format of this report mirrors that of the ADD electronic submission. Narrative text and data under each of the eight main topical areas corresponds to information supplied to the ADD in response to specific queries posed by the electronic submission system. In addition to these ADD required measures of the Board's and its partners' performance, the Board has developed its own performance measures to complement those of the ADD. Those measures are tracked throughout the year and reported in the packets provided to Board members at their quarterly meetings. For a complete understanding of all the Board's activities, both the PPR and those additional performance reports should be considered. Where appropriate and useful, this report includes some of those measures as well.

I. Council Identification

Each Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council is required to be affiliated with an agency of its state or territorial government known as its **Designated State Agency (DSA)**. A DD Council may be a private non-profit organization, a subdivision of a larger public agency, or a separate public agency. The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) is authorized under Section 51.5-30 of the *Code of Virginia* to serve as its own Designated State Agency and functions as a distinct state agency within the Health and Human Resources Secretariat.

The federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) requires each DD Council to designate an official contact person for the state in all matters pertaining to the Five Year State Plan and Program Performance Report. Heidi Lawyer, Executive Director of the Board, serves in that capacity for Virginia. Further information on the statutory authority and composition of the Board may be obtained at the Board's website or by contacting the office directly.

The **Mission** of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities is to enrich the lives of Virginians with disabilities by providing a **VOICE** for their concerns:

Vision of communities that welcome people with disabilities,
Outreach to individuals, families, and advocates,
Innovation through grant projects and sponsored programs,
Collaboration with providers of disability services, and
Education of policymakers on disability issues.

The Board strives to achieve that mission through an array of activities that includes research and evaluation, policy development and advocacy, communications and training, grant-funding, and sponsored programs.

In accordance with the goals of the DD Act, the Board seeks to empower Virginians with developmental and other disabilities to:

- Be exercise maximum self determination,
- Participate fully in all aspects of community life,
- Receive appropriate and adequate services that match their individual needs,
- Contribute to their communities through employment and volunteer service,
- Effectively advocate for themselves and others, and
- Achieve their personal goals.

Collectively, the Board's goals seek to promote and enable public and private sector collaboration and innovation which lead to greater individual self-determination and inclusive communities for all Virginians.

II. Update: Comprehensive Review and Analysis

A. Organizational Structure

During Federal Fiscal Year 2006 (FFY06), the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) maintained its organizational structure. The Board's business was directed and supervised by **four standing committees**, organized around policy and service topical areas linked to **Areas of Emphasis** specified by the DD Act. The committees were:

- **Community Integration**, with responsibilities targeting Formal and Informal Community Supports;
- **Community Living & Transportation**, with responsibilities targeting Housing and Transportation initiatives;
- **Education and Early Intervention**, with responsibilities targeting education, training, outreach, and marketing; and
- **Employment**, with responsibilities targeting employment and related initiatives.

All four committees also had responsibilities in the areas of Quality Assurance. Oversight and guidance of these committees was provided by the Board's **Executive Committee** and by the Board as a whole. Additional **ad hoc sub-committees** were convened to address specific issues and activities. A small but well-integrated, interdisciplinary professional staff of program managers and administrative personnel supported the work of these committees.

B. Sponsored Activities

The Board's activities for the reporting year were identified, shaped, and focused through a comprehensive assessment of the Virginia's disability services system and the Five Year State Plan (FYSP) development process. Activities reflect the changing needs of disability stakeholders in Virginia as well as shifts in the state's public policy, regulatory, and fiscal environment. Specific areas of Board activity during FFY06 included:

- **Constituent Outreach and Training**: Board members and staff monitored, sponsored, and actively participated in a wide range of statewide councils, commissions, advisory committees, workgroups, and educational programs in both

the public and private sectors, which addressed the full range of disability services and issues. The goals of these activities were:

- to solicit and promote the opinions and experiences of individuals with disabilities and their family members;
 - to share accurate and up-to-date information on the state's service system and issues affecting Virginians with disabilities to policymakers, legislators and other stakeholders; and
 - to stimulate and facilitate the creative, responsive, and productive exchange of information within and between those constituencies.
- **Service System Monitoring:** Based on data collection and analysis, the Board published its first comprehensive *Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia*. Staff and Board members obtained data regarding the needs of people with disabilities, identified state funded services (including eligibility criteria, access issues and funding sources), and assessed the effectiveness of service systems intended to meet those needs through identification of critical issues and recommendations. Extensive public comment was obtained and utilized during the development of the *Assessment*.
 - **Technical Assistance:** Utilizing its own staff and member resources, grant-funded activities, and other community assets at its disposal, the Board provided information, referral, and support to committees, councils, and advisory groups addressing disability issues as well as to consumers, providers, and policy-makers needing information about services, rights, and public policies. Information was provided by telephone, by e-mail, through correspondence, and through Board publications and its website.
 - **Supporting and Educating Communities:** In addition to its broad-based efforts to identify needs and share information, the Board sponsored targeted activities responsive to specific communities: individuals with disabilities and their families, the Governor of Virginia and his policy staff, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and other members of the state's executive branch, legislators in the state's General Assembly, disability consumer and advocacy organizations, state and local disability services-providers, and members of the public at large. The Board provided information and materials for distribution at numerous conferences and educational events and presented on various Board initiatives.
 - **Building Coalitions and Informing Policymakers:** Leadership in informing and influencing policy in Virginia has been strengthening as an important goal of the Board. This has been achieved by providing information to the Governor, legislators, and other state agencies; through regular, productive communications with advocates and policymakers; and by utilizing local and statewide partnerships throughout its grant-funding, training, and interagency-liaison activities. Board

staff serve on numerous task forces and workgroups addressing systems change efforts in Virginia.

- **Funding System Change:** Using a combination of competitive and solicited grants to other organizations, directly funded and managed leadership and advocacy training programs, and community outreach, the Board has leveraged federal and state dollars to stimulate the commitment of additional public and private resources, influence attitudes and practices, and build knowledge which has expanded and improved the effectiveness of Virginia's disability services system.

C. Influences and Needs Assessment

An intensive process of data gathering and analysis of state funded services for persons with developmental and other disabilities came to fruition this year with publication of the Board's first *Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia* in April 2006. This report, which included Board identification of system issues and recommendations for system improvements, is the most comprehensive assessment of Virginia's disability services system to date.

Critical issues identified through that research have informed and guided the Board's activities during this reporting year. While more updated data are now available, the *2006 Biennial Assessment* was based on data that were available in 2005. The following summary of issues is excerpted from the *Assessment's* Executive Summary.

The Commonwealth has made many positive strides in the area of disability services within the last few years. Two Governors have issued consecutive Executive Orders directing implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, reflecting an important commitment to community integration for persons with disabilities. Additional funding has been provided for autism services, brain injury services, and the Commonwealth's Centers for Independent Living. The 2005 General Assembly approved the addition of 860 waiver "slots" to the Home and Community Based (HCB) Medicaid Waiver, and 105 funded slots were added to the Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver. At the time of this report, a budget request for funding of additional Waiver slots for both the MR and DD Waivers was pending in the 2006 General Assembly. In July 2005, the Elderly and Disabled and Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services Waivers were merged, and consumer direction of all services was included under the "new" waiver. An Alzheimer's Waiver has been developed. A Day Support Waiver for individuals on the Mental Retardation Waiver waiting list was implemented on July 1, 2005, which had appropriations for 300 slots. A Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) study of Medicaid Waiver reimbursement rates has been completed. All of these positive steps, and many more not reflected above, are important components to enabling people with disabilities in Virginia to experience maximum independence and inclusion into all facets of community life.

Despite these encouraging developments, Virginia's service system for persons with disabilities has **significant shortcomings** that must be addressed by its citizens, policymakers, advocates, and providers. The Board has attempted to identify the most significant issues affecting persons with developmental disabilities. The Board recognizes that, in all likelihood, this assessment has not addressed all of the issues which its constituents would deem important, and that it may have raised issues with which some individuals, agencies, or organizations would not agree. The Board hopes and anticipates that productive discussion of these issues and recommendations will occur which will promote continued movement forward and will effect positive change. A brief summary of some of the primary Board concerns and recommendations follows.

An ongoing theme identified by the Board throughout this assessment is that services to persons with disabilities are administered in **highly compartmentalized systems** at both the state and local levels. Critical disability services in Virginia are provided by over fifteen distinct state agencies. Collectively, these agencies are responsible for hundreds of separately administered local offices, boards, councils, commissions, programs, and other entities. In some cases, local administrators have great latitude in how they assemble funding and in what services they offer. Federal and state funding streams and regulatory processes (which sometimes flow from the state level to localities and sometimes bypass state and even local authorities) add to this complexity as does the number and diversity of individual public and private non-profit and for-profit service providers. Although the goal of those funding and regulatory processes is to provide service flexibility to best identify and meet local needs, the result is a complex, sometimes overlapping and multi-tiered system. The system has so many different sources of information and points of entry and access, that it is difficult to understand, monitor and utilize the services. This is true whether one is an administrator, regulator, individual with disabilities, or provider. Intertwined responsibilities for service funding, licensure, eligibility-determination, management, and oversight result in real and perceived conflicts of interest within and between agencies at all government levels.

Much of Virginia's fragmented service system is structured around historical definitions of disability or within very **specific service "silos"** based on either disability or type of service. The service system clearly lacks a person-centered focus and a lifespan design. This is most evident regarding persons with developmental disabilities who do not have a concurrent diagnosis of mental retardation. Although implementation of the DD Waiver was a critical step in the right direction, Virginia, unlike in other states which have a more inclusive system of services, does not have a state entity designated with responsibility for policy development, service planning, or service provision regarding the population of persons with developmental disabilities. Unlike individuals with a diagnosis of mental retardation, **people with developmental disabilities do not have a "home", i.e., a dedicated funding stream or service system** to meet their needs. The result is that the service system fails to identify, account for, or plan for the needs of numerous individuals because the

nature or severity of their disability does not fall within traditional definitions and the established service system structure.

Funding for community based vs. institutional services for persons with developmental disabilities in Virginia has lagged behind most of the nation. The University of Colorado's 2005 *State of the States in Developmental Disabilities* reports that Virginia is 50 out of 51 (50 states plus the District of Columbia) in funding community services. Other equally concerning statistics from this report are cited in the *Assessment*. There remain lengthy waiting lists for the Mental Retardation (MR) and Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers with funding lagging well behind established and projected needs. Restraining the development of community infrastructure are low, inequitable rates paid by different agencies to providers of the same services as well as the lack of a geographic rate differential for providers in high cost areas.

Adding to the complexity of restructuring the service system in Virginia, the condition of several of the Commonwealth's **aging state-operated institutions** for individuals with intellectual disabilities has deteriorated to the point where the safety and health of residents is a major concern. In December 2005, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) completed *House Document 76, The Cost and Feasibility of Alternatives to the State's Five Mental Retardation Training Centers*. This report to the Governor and the General Assembly proposed that substantial new resources be devoted to developing community services for persons with mental retardation and that census at the Training Centers be significantly reduced over the next 8 years. At this same time, DMHMRSAS put forth a budget proposal to rebuild two Training Centers. The budget proposal included a welcome infusion of funds for community based services, but at a far decreased level than the amount recommended in *House Document 76*. It is unclear how the goals of *House Document 76* can be met in light of significantly decreased funding. Further, the overall DMHMRSAS Restructuring Plan still represents a continued emphasis on long term funding of large institutions. Neither the DMHMRSAS Restructuring Plan nor *House Document 76* calls for the closure of any existing state facilities. While the two rebuilt Training Centers would be smaller than those they will replace, they will still be very large institutions, one having 100 beds and the other having 300 beds.

Services for children continue to face challenges. Children with disabilities, like any other child, should be able to remain in the care of their family. The limited numbers of youth in the state Training Centers is very positive. However, the Commonwealth is experiencing the development of new nursing facility beds for children, a disturbing trend. In many instances, these children leave the nursing facility to attend school during the day, leaving a question as to whether these children need to reside in an institution and whether appropriate community supports would help them stay with their families.

In the **early intervention system** for infants and toddlers, documented challenges include a history of: inadequate funding; inconsistent application of requirements for eligibility, evaluation, service plan development and monitoring; a lack of qualified providers; and significant variability of services across the state. For school age children, reports by the Virginia Department of Education documented significant disparities between students with and without disabilities in academic achievement and graduation rates. Barriers blocking access to the general curriculum and regular education classroom remain, particularly for students with severe disabilities. Many school divisions lack adequate numbers of qualified staff for students with “low incidence” disabilities, such as visual impairment or deafness, and many do not provide adequate planning and services to students with disabilities who are transitioning from secondary to post-secondary school or employment.

As is the case nationally, individuals with disabilities in Virginia remain **significantly unemployed or underemployed**. According to 2000 U.S. Census data, Virginia’s population includes approximately 1,500,000 people with disabilities. Of those, only 30 percent (457,500) are in the workforce as compared to 82 percent of people without disabilities. The Commonwealth lacks a coordinated system and infrastructure designed to integrate employment services for individuals with disabilities in a manner that expands service capacity and that is consumer-directed and user-friendly. The existing service system is very complicated, with various agencies maintaining employment-related service options for individuals with disabilities and different points of entry for services, thereby causing duplication and confusion to both individuals and providers. In addition, substantial public comment provided to the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities from persons with disabilities seeking employment depicted a widespread concern that the programs designed to assist them in obtaining jobs consistent with their abilities and choices often had a “one size fits all” framework that did not include adequate exploration of more creative or nontraditional options.

Transportation services for people with disabilities in Virginia are managed and administered in highly compartmentalized systems at both the state and local level. Through funding of two recent grants, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities has been directly involved in the assessment of barriers and needs in this area. As detailed in the Transportation chapter, inadequate, unreliable, or inaccessible public transportation services significantly contribute to dependency—fiscal and personal—for individuals with disabilities. Because of unnecessary difficulties in getting to the services necessary for basic health, welfare, and safety, the likelihood of unnecessary institutionalization increases, and the likelihood of successful transition from institutional settings to community living decreases. Current planning structures are disjointed. More importantly, transportation need assessments and planning too often fail to routinely consider the interests and concerns of persons with disabilities.

Demand for **affordable, accessible housing** continues to grow while gaps between rising housing costs and limited incomes of people with disabilities continue

to widen. Efforts to address these problems have been largely ineffective due to inadequate and inconsistent planning and coordination over time and in relation to transportation and other interrelated service needs. This lack of coordination further restricts options and opportunities for people with disabilities to live in communities rather than institutions. Continued stereotyping of people with significant disabilities also contribute to community resistance to, and hamper development of, integrated, affordable, and accessible housing. Despite numerous housing studies conducted over many years, progress and action to remedy identified problems remains elusive.

The **affordability and accessibility of health care** and the shortage of specialty providers are significant general concerns for people with disabilities. Among healthcare services, the lack of adequate, affordable dental care is most urgent. In addition to being a health concern in and of itself, poor dental care is a major contributor to poor general health.

III. Life Goal Areas and Performance Targets: Status of State Plan Implementation

Under the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act, the Virginia Board is responsible for undertaking advocacy, capacity building, and system change activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer- and family-centered, consumer- and family-directed, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that contribute to the achievement of the purpose of the DD Act. The DD Act further recommends approaches which DD Councils may use in achieving the goals of the act and their individual state plans. These include:

- Coalition Building,
- Coordination of Services,
- Demonstration of Direct Services,
- Educating Communities,
- Informing Policy Makers,
- Interagency Collaboration,
- Outreach,
- System Design, Redesign, and Barrier Removal,
- Technical Assistance, and
- Training.

During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006, the Board utilized all of these strategies either individually or in varying combinations in different activity areas to achieve demonstrable successes in all funded activity areas.

The goals and objectives of the Five Year State Plan as well as the Program Performance Report are organized around nine life goals, also known as **Areas of Emphasis**, which are specifically identified in the DD Act. Board activities funded by the DD Act and guided by its FYSP are not required to include all of these life goal areas, but activities must address one or more of them. The following list identifies the Areas of Emphasis and their definitions as specified by the DD Act. Those areas addressed by Board initiatives in FFY06 are identified by an asterisk (*):

- ***Employment:** Individuals get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities, and needs.
 - ***Transportation:** People with disabilities have affordable and accessible transportation to meet their needs as they live independently and productively in their communities.
 - ***Education and Early Intervention:** Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.
 - ***Housing:** Adults choose where and with whom they live.
 - ***Formal and Informal Community Supports:** Individuals are valued, participating members of their communities.
- Child Care:** Children with disabilities have access to accessible and appropriate day care services as well as an adequate range of choices to support their developmental and socialization needs. (The Board addresses Child Care as a part of its Education and Early Intervention activities.)
- ***Health:** People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.
- Recreation:** Children with disabilities and their families are able to participate in meaningful and inclusive recreational activities in their communities.
- ***Quality Assurance:** Individuals have control, choice, and flexibility in services and supports they receive.
 - ***Cross Cutting Issues:** Council-level initiatives that have wide systems change impact and cut across several areas of emphasis.

The following sections of this report detail the State Plan goals in each of the specified areas addressed by Board activities during FFY06. Following each list of goals, Board activities are described, and a summary of performance measures is provided.

A. Employment

In keeping with the goals of its Five Year State Plan (FYSP), employment activities of the Virginia Board during FFY06 emphasized projects which: expanded mutual awareness between employers and prospective employees with disabilities; improved the marketable skills of people with disabilities and broadened their awareness of employment opportunities; and expanded community opportunities for meaningful, long-term employment. Specific goals of the FYSP, projects in progress during FFY06, and resulting achievements are listed below:

FYSP Employment Goals

- Support systemic changes that provide increased employment opportunities and minimize disincentives for employment of people with developmental and other disabilities.
- Improve access to meaningful employment for adults with disabilities through innovative and collaborative mechanisms statewide.
- Enhance employment success for youth with disabilities in the public and private sectors.
- Strengthen linkages between Virginia state government and national organizations that promote the full employment and community participation of people with disabilities.
- Promote public awareness about the employment of people with disabilities.

Employment Projects and Activities during FFY06

Descriptions below include project name, project administrator, starting and ending dates, and total actual or projected expenditure by the Board for the life of the project:

- **Temporary-To-Permanent Employment Collaborations**, Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, July 2004-December 2005, \$60,000: To use temporary work as a springboard to full time employment for people with disabilities by mobilizing the temporary employment industry.
- **Employment and Benefits Outreach/Project WIT (Work Incentive Training)**, Virginia ACCSES, July 2003-April 2005, \$87,000 and July 2005-December 2006, \$100,000: To build community capacity and an infrastructure of knowledge concerning SSI, SSDI and respective work incentives through increased access to

quality interactive training and one-to-one benefits counseling for people with disabilities, their families and providers of disability services. The project was designed to effect a measurable increase in individuals with disabilities that can make informed decisions about employment and benefits

- **Business Awareness and Outreach: Chamber and Small Business Outreach**, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, July 2005-December 2006, \$100,000: To promote employment practices that actively recruit and engage workers with disabilities and to expand networks among employers, business developers, and the disability community that will lead to future collaborations.
- **WorkWORLD** : Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation and Research Training Center and the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, \$4,000: Collaborated with state agencies to customize software that provides technical assistance on benefits and employment planning for Virginians with disabilities.

Employment Achievements in FFY06

The following statistics include required performance measures from the electronically-submitted Program Performance Report as well as other relevant data. Through the employment projects:

- ✓ \$138,732 dollars were leveraged for employment;
- ✓ 1 new business/employer employed adults with disabilities;
- ✓ 4 people facilitated persons with disabilities in employment;
- ✓ 2 employment programs/policies were created/improved; and
- ✓ 535 people trained in employment.

Training included 300 individuals (persons with disabilities, families and disability professionals) on work incentives under SSI/SSDI benefits. In addition, 135 business representatives statewide were trained and provided resource guides on recruiting, accommodating and retaining employees with disabilities to address workforce shortages.

B. Transportation

A fundamental need for individuals with disabilities is reliable, adequate, and accessible transportation. As noted in the *Biennial Assessment*, transportation is essential to both personal and financial independence as well as quality of life. The activities of the Virginia Board during FFY06 focused on: supporting expansion, coordination and improvement of transportation statewide; and strengthening local

and regional transportation planning and coordination to enable full community inclusion for people with disabilities.

FYSP Transportation Goal

The Five Year State Plan (FYSP) of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities had a single overarching transportation goal in FFY 2006:

- Facilitate improvements in transportation systems in Virginia for people with developmental and other disabilities as they become increasingly included in their communities.

Transportation Projects during FFY06

The description below includes project name, project administrator, starting and ending dates, and total actual or projected expenditure by the Board for the life of the project:

- **Transportation and Housing Alliance**, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, July 2005-December 2006, \$100,000: To develop a coordinated approach within a region for improved planning of accessible and affordable housing and transportation.

Transportation Achievements in FFY06

The following statistic includes required performance measures from the electronically submitted Program Performance Report:

- ✓ 377 People with disabilities have transportation services through Council efforts.
- ✓ 1 transportation policy/program was created or improved.

The Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) was designed to support localities in assessing the housing and transportation needs of people with disabilities in their jurisdiction. The Alliance provides technical assistance, education and guidance as well as public policy recommendations. Through the work of the THA's Steering Committee, an **Assessment Toolkit** was developed and is being field tested in select localities. Its use will be expanded to additional regions of the state in 2007-2008.

The use of the toolkit is being promoted by the Virginia General Assembly's Disability Commission as a means by which localities can meet comprehensive planning requirements specified in the *Code of Virginia §15.2-2223*. Revisions to this Code section, which will be effective July 1, 2007, include a requirement that localities determine and plan for the current and future needs of residents who are elderly or are people with disabilities. The toolkit is also being tested by the Virginia

Housing and Development Authority as a possible new market study assessment, which is required of developers that apply for low income housing tax credits.

A Board activity funded in previous fiscal years has had continuing positive systems impact. Through a Board funded Transportation Demonstration Project, a four county area in Southwest Virginia developed a coordinated public transit system targeting persons with disabilities. The transit system reports that in FFY 2006: 377 people with disabilities received transportation services, and a total of 98,715 total passenger trips were provided, an increase of 22.5% from FFY '05. Without the Council's grant, the area would not have been able to develop fixed route transportation services.

C. Education & Early Intervention

In FFY 2006, the goals of the Board addressed the needs of children with disabilities and their families from pre-school through transition to higher education, employment, and adulthood.

FYSP Education & Early Intervention Goals

- Empower young people with disabilities and family members through improved transition services,
- Improve educational outcomes for children with disabilities through enhanced collaboration among all participants in Virginia's special education service delivery system,
- Prepare students with disabilities to maximize opportunities in higher education,
- Influence education policy to maximize the achievements and academic potential of students with disabilities across the education continuum from early intervention to post-secondary school, and
- Advance scholarship and career development in the field of disability policy.

Projects addressing these goals developed and promoted the replication of best practices, collected and disseminated information on available resources, and trained and supported young people with disabilities and their parents to become self-advocates and leaders in their schools and communities. Promoting educational opportunities, inclusion, and individual achievement continued to be major focus of the Board's activities. Sponsorship of disability-related Fellowship and Internship programs enriched participants' academic skills and provided a foundation for future contributions to the disability services field. Specific education projects in progress during FFY06 and resulting achievements are described below.

Education & Early Intervention Projects during FFY06

Descriptions below include project name, project administrator, starting and ending dates, and total actual expenditure by the Board for the life of the project:

- **Mapping Transition Services (3 projects):** To empower young people with disabilities and family members through improved access to transition services.
 1. ARC of Northern Shenandoah Valley, July 2004-December 2005, \$50,000;
 2. Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, July 2004-December 2005, \$37,000; and
 3. Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, July 2004-December 2005, \$50,000.
- **Facilitating Transition to College: A Program for Middle and High School Students with Disabilities,** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, July 2005-December 2006, \$69,000: To engage interest, awareness and knowledge of middle and high school educators, students and family members in underserved areas of southwest Virginia about the opportunities and resources available that assist students with developmental disabilities in planning and achieving their post-secondary education goals.
- **Super School: A Computer Game,** Virginia Commonwealth University/Partnership for People with Disabilities, May 2006 - September 30, 2007, \$30,000: To develop a prototype "proof-of-concept" version of a computer game for students with disabilities (ages 10 or older) that will teach self-advocacy skills in interactive manner.
- **Disability Policy Fellowship and Internship,** Virginia Board for People with Disabilities: Ongoing in-house program, \$15,000. To promote careers in the field of disability policy and to support research by graduate students and undergraduates about policy issues related to people with disabilities and the disability services system in Virginia.

Education & Early Intervention Achievements in FFY06

The following statistics include required performance measures from the electronically-submitted Program Performance Report as well as other relevant data:

- ✓ 500 students received the services/supports they needed to reach developmental goals through Board efforts,
- ✓ \$123,692 dollars were leveraged for education related initiatives,

- ✓ 38 parents or guardians were trained regarding their child's education rights,
- ✓ 199 policymakers and educators were informed of the needs of and resources for students with disabilities in secondary schools,
- ✓ 3 education programs/policies were created or improved, and
- ✓ 1 Intern and 2 Disability Fellows were trained. (One Fellowship placement ended in May 2006; and a second began in June 2006.)

During FFY 06, the Board funded four grants to improve knowledge of and access to transition services available for students with disabilities in middle-and high schools. Three initiatives, all of which ended this FFY, developed Transition Services Mapping on-line and distributed printed manuals in primarily rural, underserved areas. Comprehensive identification and description of resources by locality, which included eligibility and access information, was made available on the web. Outreach was conducted to notify stakeholders of the sites. Based on the grant experience, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission committed resources to maintain the map long-term and to use it for future planning.

To improve educational practices and programs, the Board funded a Virginia Tech initiative, *Facilitating Transition to College*. Education on services/supports available and on components of successful transition planning was provided to middle and high school students with disabilities, their families, and educators throughout Southwest Virginia (one of the state's poorest, isolated areas). Participation in these educational sessions exceeded projections as a result of strong partnerships between the university, regional Technical Assistance Coalitions, and area schools.

D. Housing

The Board's Five Year State Plan contained a single, fundamental housing goal, which was up-dated for Fiscal Year 2006 as follows:

- Expand housing options for people with developmental and other disabilities in Virginia.

In support of this goal, the Board worked to help develop long-term strategies to increase accessible, affordable housing options and opportunities for people with disabilities. Although there were no grant projects active during FFY 06, the Board successfully partnered with state agencies and participated in housing conferences to enhance housing services. The most significant housing activity has been providing leadership to the Virginia Transportation-Housing Alliance. The activity and achievements towards this goal are reported in the previous Transportation section.

E. Formal and Informal Community Supports

Consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities continued its major goal of increasing consumers' opportunities to live in communities of their choice.

FYSP Formal and Informal Community Supports Goals

- Improve the participation of people with developmental and other disabilities in the full spectrum of community life.
- Effect systems change by increasing community living opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
- Initiate strategies to promote public awareness regarding the contributions of people with disabilities in their communities.

Board projects and their achievements during FFY06 emphasized advocacy and leadership to: promote change in state policy for increased community supports to people with disabilities; provide training and information to constituents on self-determination; and promote movement of persons from institutional to community placements.

Formal and Informal Community Supports Projects during FFY06

Descriptions below include project name, project administrator, starting and ending dates, and total actual or projected expenditure by the Board for the life of the project:

- **Positive Behavioral Supports II.** Virginia Commonwealth University's Partnership for People with Disabilities, July 2004-June, 2006, \$150,000: To create a systems change initiative that will include Positive Behavioral Supports as a reimbursable service, to increase the number and availability of qualified professionals to provide the service statewide, and to provide an accountability system.
- **Improving Community Living Options.** Originally funded as a grant to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, July 2004-September 2007, \$250,000: To support a broad range of community-based initiatives that expand opportunities for Virginians with disabilities to live in least restrictive settings of their choice consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*
- **Consumer Choice in Community Living: Nursing Home Outreach and Transition Planning,** Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living, July 2005-June 2007, \$270,000: To identify people with developmental and other disabilities who live in nursing homes and provide information and assistance that enables them to transition into their own homes if they choose to do so. The project will gather

information that will be used to inform policy makers of the needs and barriers facing people who want to transition out of nursing homes.

- **Community Supports Track: the Virginia Guardianship Association & Virginia Elder Rights Coalition Conference, July 2005-June 2006, \$3,000:** To ensure representation by individuals with disabilities in discussions of guardianship; to support training in the topical areas of consumer choice, self determination, person centered planning, circles of support, and micro-boards; and to educate lawyers and judges about the capabilities of individuals with disabilities to live independently.

Formal and Informal Community Supports Achievements in FFY06

The following statistics include required performance measures from the electronically-submitted Program Performance Report as well as other relevant data:

- ✓ 517 individuals benefited from formal/informal community supports as a result of Board efforts, \$93,693 was leveraged for community supports,
- ✓ 344 individuals, of whom 72 were providers, were trained in formal/informal community supports (specifically Positive Behavioral Supports, PBS), and
- ✓ 2 community support programs/policies were created or improved.

As a direct result of the Board's PBS initiative, the state Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) agreed to add PBS as a covered service under both the MR and DD Waivers, leading to an increase of 511 individuals who may be eligible to receive reimbursement for this service if required under their Consumer Services Plan. Six individuals moved from nursing homes into the community as a result of the Board's nursing home outreach grant.

In addition, the Board worked with the Office of Community Integration and the Governor's office to craft legislation which established statutory authority for the Community Integration Advisory Commission. The Board also provided public comment on other policy, legislative, and regulatory matters.

F. Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance broadly refers to activities that promote evaluation of and advocacy for the accessibility, availability, outcomes, costs and performance levels of a service or service delivery system. Goals and objectives included in this category pertain to quality of life, self-advocacy, leadership development, individual human rights, safety and protection from abuse and neglect. The Board's activities in the area of Quality Assurance included the following:

- the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF),
- Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program, and
- the New Voices initiative for self-advocates.

The Quality Assurance goals during FFY06 are listed below. Projects addressing those goals and their achievements follow.

FYSP Quality Assurance Goals

- Empower a statewide network of high school students and young leaders with disabilities. (Education)
- Promote the empowerment of consumers and family members to become effective, informed self-advocates regarding community living options. (Formal and Informal Community Supports)

Quality Assurance Projects during FFY 2006

The Quality Assurance projects were linked to specific goals in the Board's Five Year State Plan and to specific areas of emphasis from the Developmental Disabilities Act. Descriptions below include project name, project administrator, starting and ending dates, and total actual or projected expenditure by the Board for the life of the project:

- **Youth Leadership Forum (YLF).** Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, Ongoing in-house program, \$120,000: To train high school students with disabilities to become effective self-advocates and leaders who will advance positive changes in services and supports for themselves and others with disabilities in their home communities and throughout Virginia.
- **Partners in Policymaking (PIP).** Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, Ongoing in-house program, \$140,000: To train persons with disabilities and parents of children with a disability to become effective self-advocates and leaders who will advance positive changes in services and supports for people with disabilities in their home communities and throughout Virginia.
- **New Voices II.** VCU/Partnership for People with Disabilities (PPD), July 2004-December 2006, \$160,000: To bring together and support a cadre of consumers with developmental disabilities to plan and implement highly visible activities (including a website, video, and statewide conference) promoting effective self-advocacy, leadership, and the need for systems change in Virginia.
- **Consumer and Family Participation Fund.** Endependence Center, July 2004-June 2006, \$160,000: To provide financial support for people with disabilities and their families to attend educational and training conferences that would enable them to

better use resources available to them and to participate on advisory councils and workgroups.

- **Effectiveness Training for Local Special Education Advisory Committees (LSEACs).** Virginia Commonwealth University's Partnership for People with Disabilities, October 2004-September 2006, \$100,000: To improve the effectiveness of local SEACs through development and implementation of a series of training initiatives aimed at building capacity and effectiveness of local SEACs and participation of all stakeholders as they strive to improve services for students with disabilities.

Quality Assurance Achievements in FFY06

The following statistics include required performance measures from the electronically-submitted Program Performance Report as well as other relevant data:

- ✓ 105 individuals benefited from the Board's Quality Assurance (QA) initiatives,
- ✓ \$96,167 dollars were leveraged for QA programs,
- ✓ 175 people were active in systems advocacy, of whom 97 were self-advocates, 53 were family members, and 25 others,
- ✓ 462 people were trained in systems advocacy and QA, of whom 80 were self-advocates, 200 were family members, and 182 identified as "others",
- ✓ 23 people were trained in leadership, self-advocacy and self-determination,
- ✓ 25 people attained membership on public and private bodies and other leadership coalitions,
- ✓ 29 entities participated in partnership or coalitions as a result of Council's efforts, and
- ✓ 1 QA program/policy was created or improved.

G. Cross-Cutting Activities

In addition to the activities listed above, during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 the Board engaged in a wide range of activities which had broad impact statewide across multiple Areas of Emphasis. These activities contributed to success in meeting a number of varied FY State Plan goals. Cross-Cutting activities included:

- Publication and distribution of the *2006 Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia*;

- Quarterly publication of *Voices & Visions*, the Council's newsletter;
- Presentation of the Jackie Crews and the Outstanding Achievement awards;
- Conference and meeting outreach, which included distribution of Board information packets and facilitation of conference training sessions statewide;
- Media relations (radio, television, and newspapers);
- Outreach and Communications product development;
- Policy and liaison activities; and
- Website and electronic outreach.

Cross-Cutting Achievements in FFY06:

The Board increased advocacy through increased involvement in interagency workgroups, regulatory public comment, and conference development. Expanded marketing and communications about Board policy positions and activities resulted in higher visibility for the needs of Virginians with disabilities and for proposals to improve the service system to meet those needs.

Board marketing and communications to advocate for services and supports to Virginians with disabilities expanded rapidly during FFY06 as a result of the staff addition in 2005 of a Marketing Manager. Significant gains were made in electronic outreach, conference and workshop involvement, and media coverage.

- ✓ 224 public policymakers were educated by the Board about issues related to our activities through staff liaison participation with standing or ad-hoc committees and workgroups as well as responses to specific requests for information by policy/decision-makers;
- ✓ 32 unique publications (newsletters, public comment correspondence, etc.) were developed and distributed to policymakers about issues related to Board activities; and
- ✓ Over 2 million members of the general public are estimated to have been reached through Board public education/awareness and media initiatives.

This success was much higher than anticipated in 2005 State Plan update due to rapid expansion and maturation of Board marketing and communications, particularly in electronic outreach, conference and workshop involvement, and media coverage. A brief review of these activities and their achievements follows.

During FFY06, the Board produced and distributed a variety of publications in print and on-line formats. Four quarterly issues of the newsletter *Voices and Visions* provided background information and progress reports on Board initiatives and partnerships, useful information on a wide range of general disability topics, and news of recent and up-coming training and advocacy opportunities. During the Virginia General Assembly session, Board staff tracked and distributed information on important state legislative activities.

The Board's most significant publication was the *Biennial Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia*, which was distributed to legislators, policy makers and key stakeholders in April 2006. This comprehensive assessment of state funded services, which is the first of its kind, included eligibility and access information by need category: Early Intervention, Community Living Supports, Institutional Supports, Housing, Transportation, Education, Health, etc. For each category this report included issue identification and recommendations for system improvement developed by the Board. The *Biennial Assessment* was made available in alternative formats and on the website.

Use of electronic media during FFY 06 has grown. The Board's website continued to be a key source of information and resource links for consumers, advocates, service-providers, policymakers, and the public at large. Improvements to the site's content and user-friendliness were made throughout the year. The website had more than 18,500 visitors. The Board also increased e-mail to distribute information about its own activities and those of its partners. The Board's contact list expanded to about 5,000 individuals, advocacy and service organizations, colleges, and community resources. Listserves for targeted messaging on particular topics of interest were developed. Messages forwarded along these networks greatly multiplied the reach of the Board's communications by adding more than 10,000 new recipients statewide). As a result, there has been significantly increased public awareness of the Board and its activities, increased responses to its announcements, and increased requests for information and referrals.

Outreach to consumer, advocacy, and professional organizations increased during FFY06, with an emphasis on expanding awareness of disability issues and the Board's role to organizations not typically considered to be disability-related, but nonetheless involved in providing services and supports for people with disabilities. Over 4,250 individuals were reached by these materials. A key focus of this effort was to provide information packets containing both general Board information and information specific to their interests to meeting and conference participants. Existing Board publications, such as those described above, plus special flyers and other materials were used. Extensive use was made of "deliverables" from Board-sponsored activities, past and current, such as the *Biennial Assessment* and "All of Us", an interactive CD-ROM that tells the personal stories of people who successfully transitioned from institutions to community-based living settings. Materials from

Board partners, particularly the state's Office of Community Integration were also utilized.

Board outreach also benefited from continuing efforts in their home communities by the alumni of the Youth Leadership Forum and the Partners in Policymaking program. The use of videos and CD-ROMS to illustrate and promote these activities continued and strengthened as did exchanges of information and resources between the Board and their growing alumni populations. Reports to the Board from these alumni provided numerous examples of their leadership and influence across the state in advancing awareness of people with disabilities and expanding the services and supports available to them.

The Board sponsored two new awards programs to raise awareness of activities by and on the behalf of people with disabilities. The Jackie Crews Award for Leadership, which was awarded to Ed Turner targeted self-advocates and their efforts to improve public perceptions and the availability of services and supports for themselves and others. The Outstanding Achievement Award recognized Garth and Max Larcen of the Positive Vibe Cafe for their efforts to significantly and creatively improve the lives of people with disabilities.

IV. Assessing Consumer Satisfaction with Council Services

Consumer satisfaction with the activities of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities was obtained through two methods during FFY 06, which were:

- Evaluation forms completed by Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) delegates and by participants in the Partners in Policymaking Program (PIP); and
- The ADD Consumer Satisfaction Survey, which included Board developed questions, was piloted on our website and in the *Voices & Visions* newsletter. An announcement and request for input to the survey was sent electronically to the full mailing list.

Customers noted great satisfaction with the Board's advocacy and leadership training programs, particularly learning about protection of their rights and the rights of their children. They reported having increased self confidence and opportunities.

- ✓ "The whole class [PIP] was a set of building blocks for the future."
- ✓ "Teaches me to stand for myself and not be afraid to voice my opinion."
- ✓ "Every activity that I have participated in that was sponsored by VBPD has been a wonderful experience."

- ✓ "The wide range of programs and grants is very helpful."
- ✓ "The information received helped resolve a problem I encountered."

A total of 241 responses were received for the ADD Consumer Satisfaction Survey. This survey was an optional reporting element for FFY 06, but will be a required element by ADD in subsequent years. The table on page 28 summarizes survey results by percentage of responses. Section I provides Customer Satisfaction responses; and Section II, feedback from stakeholders on Council impact on their lives.

Several **themes** were identified from specific stakeholder feedback. Respondents described information provided by the Board as being timely and helpful in staying current with issues affecting persons with disabilities.

- ✓ "The Biennial report has been very helpful in learning more about services and gaps in the state."
- ✓ "The information given is always in a format that is easily understood."
- ✓ "Legislative information has been timely and accurate."

Some respondents, however, stated that they were unaware of the Board: "We knew nothing about the Board or any of the activities sponsored by the Board." Several individuals noted that the Board's mission did not cover them and wished for expansion to other disabilities: "I don't believe the Board addresses any of my disabilities such as narcolepsy or sleep apnea" "I wish the Board would do more to protect the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities."

Persons in rural areas noted that fewer opportunities are available to them. "We are in rural area and things just don't work as quickly or as effectively for us out here when they are implemented." "I feel in southwest Virginia there are few opportunities to fully participate."

Based on this information, it appears that recipients of Board programs and information are generally quite satisfied. The Board will continue to increase (as it has done substantially the last year) its public awareness activities and to emphasize its federal mission so that customers understand the population(s) for whom it is mandated to serve. The Board will also review its program activities to ensure better outreach to underserved and rural areas. Efforts will continue to make important, useful information readily available and accessible to people with disabilities.

VBPD Customer Satisfaction Survey Item	Percentage of Respondents	
	Strongly Agree, Somewhat agree or Agree	Disagree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree
<i>I. Customer Satisfaction with Council Activities:</i>		
1. Respect - I (or my family member) was treated with respect during project activity.	89%	11%
2. Choice - I (or my family member) have more choice and control as a result of project activity.	70%	30%
3. Community - I (or my family member) can do more things in my community as a result of this project.	66%	34%
4. Satisfied - I am satisfied with project activity.	87%	12%
5. Better Life - My life is better because of project activity.	80%	20%
6. Rights - Because of this project activity, I (or my family member) know my rights.	85%	15%
7. Safe - I (or my family member) are more able to be safe and protect myself from harm as a result of activity.	80%	20%
<i>II. Council activities have improved the ability of individuals with developmental disabilities to:</i>		
1. Make choices and exert control over the services and supports they use.	88%	12%
2. Participate in community life:	88%	12%
3. Satisfaction - Council activities promote self-determination and community participation for individuals with developmental disabilities.	91%	9%

V. Council Progress in Achieving Goals

In their annual Program Performance Reports to the Administration for Developmental Disabilities, DD Councils such as the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities are asked to provide brief summaries of the strategies used to achieve the goals of their Five Year State Plans (FYSP) over the reporting year. Much of this information has been covered above but is summarized consistent with the FFY \06 federal report submission.

Employment: The Employment goals were met in this FYSP year through projects that modeled and demonstrated practices leading to competitive and meaningful employment for people with developmental disabilities. The Employment Committee built upon previous successes aimed at improving employers' awareness of the benefits of employing people with disabilities.

- ✓ The Board has increased incentives for employment by funding the Work Incentive Training project, resulting in: greater beneficiary access to information and expertise on work incentives as a result of training courses, activities of the Benefits Specialist, and 1-on-1 counseling for individuals with developmental disabilities and families from regional BPAO specialists.
- ✓ Access to meaningful employment through innovative and collaborative mechanisms statewide has been achieved through the Employment Outreach (Work Incentive Training, or W.I.T.) and the Chamber of Commerce/Small Business Outreach projects.
- ✓ The Employment Collaborations project successfully changed attitudes and increased the knowledge of the staffing industry and Employment Services Organizations (ESOs), resulting in the placement of individuals with disabilities into long-term employment.
- ✓ The Chamber and Small Business Outreach project has trained businesses throughout the state on addressing worker shortages by building relationships with local disability professionals to recruit, hire and retain individuals with disabilities.

Transportation: In this state plan year the Board's transportation projects provided increased opportunities for people with disabilities to access services that enabled them to live more independently in communities.

- ✓ The Board's 4 County Transit Demonstration Project, which ended in 2004, continues to have an impact by providing fixed route public transit services to 377 individuals with disabilities. This project also improved access to transportation for the general population, providing 98,715 total passenger trips.

- ✓ The Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) has been highly productive through the work of a broad and representative THA steering committee. The THA created a toolkit for localities to assess their housing and transportation needs, project future needs and identify overlapping issues and opportunities. The assessment toolkit will augment planning for community development and improvements in the areas of housing and transportation for people with disabilities. Those who influence the building of T&H community capacity are being educated on the toolkit, its use and on the need for accessible and affordable transportation and housing options and choices.

Education and Early Intervention: The Committee and the Board kept abreast of technical and legislative changes, notably the reauthorized federal IDEA legislation and the “No Child Left Behind” Act, that have had significant impacts on educational policy and practice at the local, state, and national levels.

- ✓ Three transition grantees developed a comprehensive regional web site, complete with chat room, mentor links and useful information on statewide services and supports available for students with disabilities. One grantee has committed to maintaining and updating its web site long-term as part of regional planning processes. Guidelines for, and challenges of, replication of Transition Mapping were developed by each grantee for future reference. Information about the Mapping projects was disseminated in our August 2006 newsletter, which is available on the Board's website.
- ✓ A significant number of middle and high school students, educators, and families in rural areas received comprehensive information to assist transition planning as well as to obtain needed services and supports to facilitate learning. This success was the result of strong partnerships with secondary schools, T/TACs and other stakeholders.

Formal and Informal Community Supports: The Board successfully conducted an array of projects to empower both the service system and consumers to effect the fullest possible integration of people with disabilities into communities of their choice. With investments in Positive Behavioral Supports capacity building and initiatives which support Olmstead implementation, the importance of community living is a more prominent feature of multiple Board activities. The Board is working collaboratively with many partners in nursing home transition efforts, which are improving opportunities for individuals to reach full self determination. As a direct result of Board activity, more individuals with developmental disabilities have more access to the community supports and information that they need.

- ✓ Investment in provider training in Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) increased service capacity to support individuals with disabilities in

- their communities and resulted in a policy change that authorizes payment for PBS under the Medicaid and DD waivers. Strong support from the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Department of Health Professions, and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services facilitated this change.
- ✓ In the area of policy, the Board increased its involvement to advocate for community services and support through: legislative testimony with regard to the plans to rebuild state training centers; participation on a vast array of interagency task forces and work-groups addressing issues such as community integration, emergency planning, health care for people with disabilities, alternatives to guardianship, transportation and housing, special education, mental retardation restructuring, services to persons with autism, services to persons with brain injury, and the Commonwealth's "No Wrong Door" initiative on long term care. Finally, the Board has been active in reviewing and providing public comment on state agency regulations affecting the lives of persons with disabilities throughout Virginia.
 - ✓ Board staff also directly participated in the development of the successful Real Choices Systems Change Transformation Grant and helped develop Virginia's Money Follows the Person grant application, which is still under award consideration.

Quality Assurance: The Board's quality assurance projects were distributed across several different areas of emphasis in the FFY 2001-06 State Plan. These projects ensure that consumer-driven advocacy and oversight of Virginia's service system for people with disabilities is provided by well-trained, knowledgeable and collaborative advocate/leaders.

The Board has enabled people with DD and their family members to be present and "at the table" to discuss matters that involve their lives, their future and their independence through a variety of projects:

- Partners in Policy-making Program (PIP),
- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF),
- Training and/or participation in policy discussions or taskforce meetings, through support of the Consumer & Family Participation Fund; and
- The consumer-led "New Voices" initiative.

Expanded outreach/marketing efforts helped to increase Board advocacy in state policy as well as provided people with disabilities and their families with information important to personal decision-making and advocacy.

Cross Cutting Goals: The Board met its cross-cutting goals through a variety of activities which raised awareness of the Board and broadened its reach. Utilizing a variety of strategies, the Board experienced exceptional growth in public awareness of individuals with disabilities, disability issues & the Board itself. This was demonstrated by its rapidly expanding contact lists & requests for information & referral services. Achievements include:

The “Voices & Visions” newsletter and other Board publications educated the public, improved the understanding of policymakers, highlighted specific interrelated areas of community supports, and featured special inserts with additional system data.

- ✓ News coverage of disability issues, initiated or supported by the Board, reached every major market in the state and included coverage of employment, community supports, education/transition, emergency planning as well as the Board’s leadership training programs and community service awards.
- ✓ Award nominations and training applications also spanned the state.
- ✓ Website visitation and e-mail announcements increased, reaching wider audiences.
- ✓ Professional outreach expanded beyond traditional disability constituencies to wider audiences in architecture, education, transportation, health care, etc.

VI. Reporting Year (FFY06) Expenditures

A. By Type of Recipient

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Sub-Title B Funds</i>	<i>Match Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>
State Council	\$1,008,540	\$147,384	\$1,156,924
Designated State Agency	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Other(s) State Agency	\$91,422	\$53,726	\$145,148
State P&A Agencies	\$0	\$0	\$0
University Centers for Excellence	\$246,894	\$81,014	\$327,908
Non-Profit Organizations	\$278,807	\$118,930	\$397,737
Other	\$85,940	\$73,522	\$159,462
Total	\$1,761,603	\$475,576	\$2,237,179

B. By Cost Category

<i>Cost Category- Area of Emphasis</i>	<i>Subtitle B Funds</i>	<i>Other Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>
Employment	\$188,567	\$57,733	\$246,300
Education & Early Intervention	\$191,375	\$72,156	\$263,531
Housing	\$67,683	\$0	\$67,683
Health	\$8,777	\$0	\$8,777
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$0
Recreation	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transportation	\$104,890	\$20,443	\$125,333
Quality Assurance	\$542,846	\$96,167	\$639,013
Formal/Informal Community Supports	\$279,354	\$93,693	\$373,047
General Board Management	\$328,111	\$135,384	\$463,495
Functions of DSA	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Total	\$1,761,603	\$475,576	\$2,237,179

VII. Dissemination of the Program Performance Report

The Virginia Board for People with Disability's Program Performance Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 is posted at the Board's website, www.vaboard.org, in fully accessible format. The Board's website is linked to all major educational and advocacy groups throughout the state. In addition, this printed "reader friendly" version of the report is prepared and distributed to a wide range of primary stakeholders on the agency's mailing list. The availability of the report will be announced in the February 2007 issue of the "Voices & Visions" quarterly newsletter which is distributed regularly to over 4,000 constituents statewide.

VIII. Network Collaboration: Selected Issues

This is a brief summary of the Board's collaboration with its Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network partners under the federal DD Act. The protection and advocacy (P&A) component of the network is the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy (VOPA); and the state's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is the Partnership for Virginians with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU/ Partnership). Under the DD Act, the Board (which is

the state's DD Council) and these two partner agencies are directed to work together and, with additional community partners, to promote improvements to Virginia's system of disability services and supports and subsequently to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The members of Virginia's DD Network have provided articles for each other's newsletters, partnered in production of a nationally-distributed video, and collaborated to address concerns regarding the proliferation of institutions—intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICF-MRs). DD Network partners have also collaborated on steering committees of several grant projects.

The DD Act requires that members of Virginia's DD Network collaborate on a variety of specific issues. Examples of collaborative activity between the DD network agencies are listed below.

- **Institutionalization of children.** The Board Director and the UCEDD director each authorized a Network newsletter articles on this topic, highlighting challenges in Virginia as well as Georgia's successful initiatives. Based on the success of its current outreach to adults with DD in nursing homes, the Board is issuing an RFP for outreach to families of institutionalized children to provide information on community based options & supports. The Board Director and Chairperson met with Governor's office staff to discuss this & other issues. Training efforts by the Partnership for People with Disabilities (UCEDD) on person centered planning and positive behavioral supports will benefit these initiatives. The P&A also has a goal in this area.
- **Need for a designated DD system.** The Board Chairperson specifically addressed this issue in legislative testimony in 2006; and the issue also has been addressed in newsletter articles, position papers, and public comment. The Council supported the UCEDD Director's stance at a legislative Disability Commission meeting that a search for an agency "home" for autism be broadened to developmental disabilities as a whole. The Council also has been working with the state's Joint Commission on Health Care which is studying the issue.

In conclusion, FFY 2006 has been a productive year. The Board, as the state's DD Council, has broadened and intensified its advocacy efforts through significantly expanded, higher quality marketing and outreach efforts, position papers, legislative and regulatory public comment, and partnerships with agencies, disability organizations, self-advocates with disabilities, and other key stakeholders. The Board's grant projects met or exceeded their goals. The Board will continue to be a VOICE advocating for substantive policy and funding improvements throughout the Commonwealth that enable Virginians with disabilities to thrive in their communities.