

**NEW RIVER VALLEY DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD (DSB)
Called Meeting Minutes**

November 10, 2004

Present: Jean Brickey, Maureen Weyer, Tim Whiten, Monica Musik, Davin Lewis, Jim Hurt, Cindy Lawson, Judy Harkrader, Gary Heinline, Barbara Smith, Shawn Utt, Aliana Whitaker, and guest Jean Felts (Southwest Virginia Training Center).

This meeting was a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. The meeting was called to order in the Blacksburg Public Library at 10:05AM.

Before the meeting began Chair Ms. Brickey announced that Mr. Utt would be stepping down from his post as staff support for the DSB. Ms Whitaker, who works for the NRVPCD, will replace him.

Chair Ms. Brickey asked if there were any additions to be made to the agenda. Chair Ms. Brickey announced that Jean Felts of the Southwest Virginia Training Center (SWVATC) would be speaking after the CIL update (Agenda item 5). A motion was made by Mr. Heinline and seconded by Ms. Weyer to accept the agenda as written. The motion passed by acclamation.

Chair Ms. Brickey asked if there were any additions to be made to the minutes of the last meeting (August 11, 2004). Chair Ms. Brickey discussed the possibility of meeting minutes being approved via email. It was determined that to meet State requirements the minutes must be passed in person. It was decided that future minutes will be made available via email and sent by US postal service to all members. A motion was made by Mr. Heinline and seconded by Ms. Lawson, to accept the minutes as distributed.

Mr. Heinline provided the board with a transportation update. He presented the year-end report and stated that the each jurisdiction experienced and overall increase in rider usage. In order to help off set increasing gas prices Mr. Heinline asked to request a 5% increase in funding from localities (total revenue from increase equals \$1,500). It is important to note that the localities have not been asked to increase their funding for the past three years. Chair Ms. Brickey asked if there were any objections to this request. None were made. It was agreed that Mr. Heinline should write a letter to localities requesting additional funds as soon as possible, since budget requests are due in the next month. Mr. Hurt informed Mr. Heinline that City of Radford is already collecting budget information, so get the request in ASAP. Since August, there have been no consumer complaints. And one consumer from Floyd has worked with the Center for Independent Living and NRSS to receive transport services.

Mr. Heinline also provided the DSB with an update on the Pulaski Area Transit. So far they are not using a certification process. They do not allow scooters unless the rider can/is willing to transfer off and into a seat.

Ms. Thompson and Mr. Wright, both of the Center for Independent Living (CIL) were not present to provide and update. Mr. Utt provided and update on projects carried out at by CIL. Through donations and volunteer hours the CIL installed three ramps. The Board agreed to support a letter to the State to request that the CIL become an independently financed operation if the director wants to pursue such an endeavor. It was also suggested that Board members write to their legislators to encourage the funding of transportation.

Ms. Jean Felts introduced herself and discussed what the SWVATC does and the area that it covers. She is trying to increase exposure and networking among groups in the New River Valley that interact with the disabled population. She will be sending the DSB information relating to training programs and services provided by the SWVATC.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS – Mr. Utt reminded the DSB of the new changes to the Virginia Disability Commission. The General Assembly has reauthorized the Disability Commission to become a permanent arm of the GA. Through the reauthorization, the commission will continue to be chaired by the Lt. Gov. until his term ends in 2005. At that time, the Commission members will elect a chairman. The Lt. Gov. will remain a member of the Commission.

The Virginia Disability Commission announced that for FY05 it will make housing a priority goal.

Mr. Utt provided the DSB with information regarding RSIF funding. The New River Valley DSB sent forward a proposal from the Independent living Center to provide education and training with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act for property managers, leasers, and homeowners. Additional funds in the grant were allocated for home modifications. Ms. Whitaker will be traveling to Richmond Tuesday November 16, 2004 to lobby for funding.

Ms. Weyer provided a review of Real World Day, held at Radford University Friday November 5, 2004. Overall the event was positively received and the evaluations are favorable. Total attendance was reported to be in the 350-400 people range with at least 200 students and 100 teachers taking advantage of the displays and vendor sites. Things to improve upon next year include the overall marketing of the event and better flow between vendors and assist technology sites

OLD BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

Mr. Utt reported that a letter has been drafted to send on the DSB's behalf to Montgomery County regarding their DSB County representative. It will request that the County find a new representative, and recommend that the county appoint their ADA coordinator as that person.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Ms. Brickey discussed the possibility of Ms. Smith serving as an intern for the DSB next semester/year. Her focus would be on making available products that benefit the disabled community and the marketing of these products. In addition, she would focus on networking within the disabled population to make sure that their needs are met.

Mr. Hurt requested that an updated list of members and charter for the board be sent out. It was also discussed that the website needs to be updated and possibly transferred to a server that is free of charge. Possible options include the NRVPDC server or the Radford server.

Brochures for the youth leadership forum were sent out to all schools. This program encourages leadership among community youth.

Chair Ms. Brickey reported that Virginia Tech, recipient of the Friendly Business Award, also won the VA Disability Awareness award. The Board should be thinking about possible businesses to nominate for the coming year.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m., location to be in the Blacksburg Public Library.

Chair Ms. Brickey adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.