

NEW RIVER VALLEY DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD
Called Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2004

Present: Jean Brickey, Robert Wright, Maureen Weyer, Jim Hurt, Nell Doss, Judy Harkrader, Cindy Miller, Sally Quesenberry, Gary Heinline, John Stanley, Kirsten Beindorf, Shawn Utt, and guests Monica Musick (New River Senior Services) and Nora Turner (Brain Injury Services-SWVA).

This meeting was a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. The meeting was called to order in the Blacksburg Public Library at 10:08AM.

Chair Brickey asked if there were any additions to be made to the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Heinline and seconded by Mr. Stanley to accept the agenda as written. The motion passed by acclamation.

Chair Brickey asked if there were any additions to be made to the minutes of the last meeting (May 12, 2004). A motion was made by Ms. Quesenberry and seconded by Mr. Heinline, to accept the minutes as distributed.

Mr. Heinline introduced Ms. Musick to the Board. Ms. Musick has been hired as an administrative assistant to help run the transportation program at NRSS. Mr. Heinline noted that all jurisdictions have fully funded the transportation program for this fiscal year. He noted that Montgomery County had originally intended to cut the funding by 30%, however chose to provide level funding. Mr. Heinline also noted that the NRSS will be starting up a new transit program in the Town of Pulaski and asked that a member of the DSB be named/appointed to be a member of the Advisory Committee for this program. Chair Brickey stated that the appointee really should be a citizen representative. Mr. Utt noted that the DSB currently did not have a citizen representative from Pulaski County and will work to recruit such an individual. The first meeting of the advisory committee will be August 25th, 2004, with the official ribbon cutting ceremony to be held

Mr. Wright gave the Board an update of the BRILC satellite office in Christiansburg. The satellite center has spent the entire RSIF funds awarded by the NRVDSB last August. He also is planning on a new, innovative program to be applied for when the next round of RSIF grants become available. Mr. Wright noted that he is working with area Registrars to ensure ADA compliance at polling places for the November election. This project is in cooperation with the "Help America Vote Act".

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS – Mr. Utt informed 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.

Other updates Mr. Utt provided the DSB included RSIF funding updates and new guidelines within the Department of Blind and Visually Impaired and the Department of Rehab Specialists resulting in only the “most sever cases” can be worked with, rather than a first come first serve basis. This new policy is called “Order of Selection” and is in effect a priority system as a result of the recent budget cuts.

OLD BUSINESS – The following items were discussed;

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Utt distributed information on an emergency planning conference geared toward planning for people with disabilities. The conference will be held in Arlington, VA from September 22-24.

Mr. Utt noted that the Disability Services Council, the group charged with developing guidelines and policies for the Disability Services Boards statewide will be meeting in the coming months to discuss funding for the DSBs. He noted that he and Chair Brickey will be traveling to the meetings to ensure that the voice of NRV is heard.

Chair Brickey asked Mr. Utt to discuss the lack of activity by the government representative from Montgomery County and request that Montgomery appoint the ADA Coordinator for the County to the DSB.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., location to be in the Blacksburg Public Library.

Chair Brickey adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.