

**NEW RIVER VALLEY DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD
Called Meeting Minutes**

May 11, 2005

Present: Jean Brickey, Maureen Weyer, Jim Hurt, Judy Harkrader, Sally Quesenberry, Terri Morris, and Shawn Utt.

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

Chair Brickey noted that a quorum was not present, but the remaining members requested to move forward as an informational meeting.

Chair Brickey asked if there were any additions to be made to the agenda. None were made.

Chair Brickey asked if there were any additions/corrections to be made to the minutes of the last meeting (February 9, 2005). None were suggested.

Chair Brickey gave a brief update concerning the transportation funding for the coming fiscal year. Montgomery County has approved a small increase, as has the City of Radford and Pulaski County. Ms. Morris noted that the County of Floyd has approved level funding for the coming year. The status of funding from Giles County is still unknown. Mr. Utt agreed to work with Ms. Ali Whitaker (Staff Support) to find out and inform the board. Ms. Brickey noted that through conversations with Mr. Gary Heinline, she has learned that the funds for disability services transportation have run out, as of the end of April, due to unusually high costs of fuel. She has received phone calls asking for the program to be re-instated. However, with no funding available, it is understood that the program cannot continue until the new fiscal year.

Mr. Utt gave the board a brief review of items the BRILC is currently working on. He explained that the City of Radford has appropriated \$10,000 in CDBG Entitlement funds for BRILC to make necessary home modifications to eligible citizens within the City limits. Mr. Utt also noted that BRILC-NRV has a new employee. Pat Murray is a new part-time employee and will be assisting Mr. Wright with the Independent Living Services program.

Mr. Utt noted that the New River Valley Transition Council is re-forming. The Council is a group of stakeholders that work to increase opportunities for the youth in the region. It should be an excellent contact for the upcoming needs assessment data gathering.

OLD BUSINESS: The following items were discussed;

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Brickey informed the DSB that the RSIF grant application from the American Red Cross has been submitted to the VA Department of Rehab Services for consideration for funds through the RSIF grant program. The Disability Services Council will be awarding the funds most likely in mid to late June. DSB staff will be on hand to answer any questions that may arise.

Mr. Utt passed around a draft needs assessment survey instrument. This form has been developed by a state-wide group of DSB members and staff. The DSB members were asked to review the survey and provide staff feedback at the August meeting. The needs assessment survey will be distributed beginning September 2005, with the data analysis and assessment development running through January 2006.

Chair Brickey noted that two current members of the Disability Services Board are working on a project to help get more businesses aware of the assistive technology available. Barbara Smith and Cindy Lawson have requested any assistance in developing a work program and getting some contacts together. A list of possible avenues to take includes:

- Gadget Fair @ NRV Mall (with assistance from VATS)
- Meet w/ AARP members of the NRV
- Newsletter to members of area Chambers of Commerce, followed up with a workshop with interested businesses
- Coordinate with Senior Centers and Agency on Aging meal-sites for presentations
- Partner with local school systems and present information to teachers during summer workshops

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Chair Brickey requested using the VT Assistive Technology Lab located in Torgersen Hall. Ms. Weyer will inform board members of its availability. The alternative location will be in the Blacksburg Public Library.

Chair Brickey adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.