

Citizen Advisory Group Meeting
Blueprint for Livable Communities

Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2010

Department of Rehabilitative Services' Central Office

Those in Attendance:

Mr. Keith Hare, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Mr. Jim Rothrock, Commissioner, Department of Rehabilitative Services
Ms. Katie Roeper, Assistant Commissioner, Department for the Aging
Mr. Bill Shelton, Director, Housing and Community Development
Ms. Heidi Lawyer, Director, Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Mr. Neil Sherman, Public Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Ms. Mary-Margaret Cash, Director of Community Based Services, Department of Rehabilitative Services
Ms. Polly Sweeney, Special Advisor to the Governor on Disability Issues
Ms. Myra Shook, Department of Health
Mr. Bruce DeSimone, Virginia Housing Development Authority
Dr. Bill Fuller, Virginia Housing Development Authority
Mr. Carter Harrison, Chairman, Community Integration Advisory Commission
Ms. Rebecca Wilkens, Special Assistant, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Ms. Janet Areson, Virginia Municipal League
Mr. Jack Brandt, Statewide Independent Living Council
Mr. Darrell Crittendon, Virginia Recreation and Park Society
Ms. Merrill Alisa Friedman, Amerigroup
Mr. Dennis Horton, Junction Center for Independent Living
Ms. Nancy Jennings, National MS Society
Dr. Richard Lindsay, Older Dominion Partnership
Ms. Lory Philippo, Circle Center Adult Day Services
Mr. David Ross, Older Dominion Partnership
Ms. Hannah Twaddell, American Planning Association
Mr. Gordon Walker, Executive Director, Jefferson Area Board for Aging
Mr. Eldon James
Ms. Jane Woods

Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Hare and Commissioner Rothrock welcomed the Blueprint for Livable Communities Citizen Advisory Group members to the group's first public meeting.

Legislative Charge: The legislative charge for the blueprint is contained in the Code of Virginia § 2.2-213.4. The blueprint is to be reported to the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees no later than June 30, 2011. Mr. Hare requested advisory input from the group on its interpretation of the legislation and the content of the blueprint that will be developed.

Role and Scope of Advisory Group: Commissioner Rothrock stated that the role of the Citizen Advisory Group will be to serve in an advisory capacity throughout the development and implementation of the blueprint for livable communities.

Proposed work plan for advisory group: Staff will use initial input obtained from discussion during this first meeting to assist in guiding ongoing research efforts. The group will meet a second time during the General Assembly session to receive an update on the direction of the blueprint and offer additional input. A third meeting of the advisory group will be held in April to receive final input on a draft of the report that will be submitted to the General Assembly by June 30, 2011.

Ongoing Research: Commissioner Rothrock gave an overview of the Livable Communities initiative and summarized progress to date in development of a blueprint for livable communities in Virginia. Secretary Hazel convened an initial planning meeting with state agency representatives in June, where several related initiatives across state agencies were identified. Over the summer the Department of Rehabilitative Services hired one full-time staff member, Rebecca Wilkens, to assist with research and development of the Blueprint.

Related Initiatives in State Transportation Services

Mr. Sherman presented on the State Coordination Model for Human Service Transportation.

Report: Virginia's transportation coordination work group issued a report in 2010, the *State Coordination Model for Human Service Transportation*, summarizing its progress in state coordination efforts for transportation, regional developments, and making recommendations for future coordination strategies.

Regional Level Plans: 21 geographic regions have been set up in Virginia, each responsible for developing a "regional level plan" for transportation services.

MOU: In 2007, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Transportation signed a Memorandum of Understanding expressing mutual interest in coordination of transportation services across Secretariats. This MOU is a source of structure for ongoing coordination efforts.

United We Ride Grant: DRPT has received a United We Ride planning grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the transportation coordination workgroup serves as the Advisory Board for this grant.

Related Initiatives in Housing

Governor's Housing Task Force: Commissioner Rothrock informed the group that the Governor's Housing Task Force will issue its first recommendations in November at the Governor's Housing Conference in Richmond.

Community Integration Advisory Commission: The Community Integration Advisory Commission, developed to ensure compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's 2000 *Olmstead* decision, met recently

and finalized its recommendations to the Governor regarding further actions Virginia can take to increase and ensure integration of people with disabilities into the community.

HUD Housing Vouchers: Virginia's Centers for Independent Living, in collaboration with local public housing authorities, were recently awarded 468 vouchers for housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The vouchers will be issued to qualifying non-elderly people with disabilities.

The Older Dominion Partnership

Dr. Lindsay described the mission and activities of the Older Dominion Partnership, a non-profit coalition to include Virginia businesses, government, academic institutions, and non-profits. Since 2007, ODP has been compiling research on the "Age Wave" in Virginia and nationally and has documented Age Wave planning activities statewide.

Mission: The Older Dominion Partnership (ODP) is an initiative created by Virginia businesses, government, foundations, and non-profits to help Virginia's communities ride the age wave—the doubling of the Commonwealth's 65+ year old population by 2030.

Progress: ODP has a website containing resources and information for age wave planning activities. In 2011, a statewide survey of older Virginians will be conducted to obtain better data on the needs of the 65+ population and their awareness of available resources. ODP is also developing an online age wave data center for its website and hopes to implement indicators and benchmarks for age wave planning in Virginia.

Four-Year Plan for Aging Services

Ms. Roeper presented on the Four-Year Plan for Aging Services, which is available online through the Department for the Aging. The Four-Year Plan is mandated by the General Assembly. It is developed and will be updated on an ongoing basis by a diverse planning team of experts. It offers detailed descriptions of the current state of aging services in Virginia and delivers 42 recommendations for improving services to the older Virginians.

Services and Supports: The plan takes a comprehensive view of services and supports for older Virginians; including those related to safety and security, living environments, transportation, home- and community-based services, and healthcare.

Future Plans: The Four-Year Plan Workgroup will aim to coordinate ongoing planning efforts related to serving older Virginians, gather public input and refine recommendations, set action plans, develop benchmarks, evaluate effectiveness, and embed evidence-based practices.

Staff Progress Report

Ms. Wilkens summarized research findings compiled since June relating to the blueprint for livable communities.

Resource Catalogue: A resource catalogue has been drafted which indexes and summarizes planning activities, demographic information, state initiatives, media, and other resources related to livable communities planning in Virginia and nationwide. Advisory Group members were encouraged to read and comment on the contents and format of the resource catalogue in order to assist with staff research efforts.

Incentives: Ms. Wilkens asked for input from Advisory Group members regarding ways to incentivize livable communities planning at the local and regional levels.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rothrock asked the group to advise staff on three points:

1. What will Virginia's "blueprint" look like?
2. Are there additional groups who should be at the table during these discussions?
3. What are some incentives to encourage local planning and partnering to better serve people with disabilities and older Virginians?

Suggestions offered by group members included:

- Improve access to cost information on housing and transportation services for both consumers and providers of the services.
- Suggestions for existing groups and initiatives statewide which might offer opportunities for coordination with the blueprint.
- Strategies for marketing the blueprint to various target populations.
- Possible components of the blueprint, including "checklists" for community planners to help identify general and specific features or goals of livable communities.