

**disAbility Law Center of Virginia**  
**PAIMI Council Meeting October 24, 2020**

**Members Present:** Tina Stelling (Chair), Caroline Gendelman (Vice-Chair), Heidi Campbell, Brandon Cassady, Bonnie Neighbour

**Perspective Members Present:** Staci Young, Kaea Waldrop

**Staff Present:** Nicole Durose, Becka Herbig, Colleen Miller, Isabel McGuire-Ruiz, Kourtney Wilson

Tina called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM.

Tina read the PAIMI Council's mission statement.

Current members, perspective members, and dLCV staff introduced themselves.

Tina announced that the July 2020 PAIMI meeting minutes were not recorded.

There were no members that needed to renew their membership.

Council members went around and shared their individual advocacy updates:

Caroline shared that a nursing home visitation bill was recently passed by the General Assembly.

Stacy and Heidi discussed barriers facing individuals seeking mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stacy works for a CSB and explained that she has seen people needing a psychiatric bed have had to wait in the emergency room for days until a psychiatric bed could become available. She also reported that substance abuse relapse rates have been skyrocketing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several members and perspective members discussed issues that they have been having with the school system regarding proper IEPs for their children.

Tina suggested two changes to the bylaws:

The first change is that no two members of the same household may serve on the Council. Tina cited that this change was being sought so as to avoid a conflict of interest. Heidi moved to accept the change to the bylaws and Caroline seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The second change discussed is that "any council member who has two unexcused absences out of the four quarterly scheduled meetings may be removed by the Board President." Members decided that they would revisit this amendment to the bylaws.

The Council brainstormed ideas about how to execute various FY21 objectives. Specifically, members discussed discharge training efforts. Isabel, Social Work Intern at dLCV, asked members for suggestions for which hospitals dLCV should conduct trainings on discharge planning at. Members suggested:

- Augustine Health Hospital – Crossroads Unit
- VA Beach Psychiatric Hospital
- Dominion Hospital
- Poplar Springs Hospital

Various Council members are working on goals.

Tina encouraged members to look over PPR.

The Council took a break for lunch at 12:15 PM.

The Council discussed the 2021 schedule of meetings and decided that PAIMI Council meetings would take place one week before the quarterly Board of Directors' meetings. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, January 23, 2021
- Saturday, April 24, 2021
- Friday, July 30, 2021 (Joint meeting) & Saturday, July 31, 2021 (Regular meeting)
- Saturday, October 23, 2021

Colleen updated the Council about office operational procedures during the pandemic. She reported that the office is opened and that staff are expected to work in the office at least 2 or 3 days a week and work from home during the rest of the week. Social distancing protocols are in effect. She also reported that the office closed down for a couple of days so that it could undergo a deep cleaning after two staff members contracted COVID-19. She reported that onsite monitoring has continued since May, and that staff are doing onsite visits to Assisted Living Facilities as well (unless they have identified infections).

Colleen then discussed the quarterly Litigation Report. She highlighted cases within the report that affected the PAIMI Council. Colleen and Becka answered members' questions about these cases.

Colleen shared information about one piece of legislation that came out of the special session, called the MARCUS Alert. MARCUS stands for "Mental Health Awareness Response and Community Understanding Services." Marcus alert is a way for local law enforcement to know whether or not they are having an encounter with someone who is having a mental health crisis. This bill requires the Department of Behavioral Health to develop a plan for Marcus Alerts by July 2021. Council members asked questions and gave feedback regarding their thoughts of this legislation. Colleen will keep members up to date about program pilots and may request suggestions from members as this program gets underway.

Colleen discussed the Progress Report. She explained that the purpose of this report is to report on the progress of dLCV's monitoring initiatives, projects, systems change, and policy work. She shared with the Council the work that dLCV is doing in psychiatric facilities and juvenile correctional facilities, and the efforts being taken to reach people in these facilities despite barriers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colleen told members about dLCV's "Rights Here, Rights Now" podcast and encouraged Council members to listen to it.

Tina asked Colleen about a mentorship program in the PAIMI Council. The mentor would meet with his or her assigned new member before and after the new members' first meeting. Colleen said that this program could be on a voluntary basis. Tina told members if they are interested in becoming a mentor, to let her know. Brandon volunteered to serve as a mentor.

Tina reminded members to continually work on recruiting new members to the Council.

The Council discussed potential nominations and the qualifications of perspective new members Kaea and Stacy. Tina disclosed that she knows Keia on a personal level.

Heidi motioned to vote Kaea onto the Council. Brandon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Caroline moved to vote Stacy onto the Council. Tina seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicole notified the Board that they needed a total of 12-15 members. These new nominations bring the Board to 10 members.

The Council moved to the election portion of the meeting.

Caroline moved to re-nominate Tina to serve as the Chair for the FY21 term. Heidi seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tina moved to re-nominate Caroline to serve as the Vice-Chair for the FY21 term. Heidi seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM.**