



SEMI – ANNUAL REPORTS

November 2013 – April 2014

Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities
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**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
SPECIALIZED EDUCATION FACILITIES**

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS

Spring 2014

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OFFICER REPORTS

President's Semi-Annual Report

Ronald K. Spears

Spring 2014

Welcome to Virginia Beach and the VAISEF 2014 Spring Conference and Membership Meeting! As we arrive here this week in early spring, I cannot help but reflect on the memorable winter that we have just survived – both in terms of the arctic weather and the many initiatives on which our Association has been focused. While I encourage you to read the committee reports that follow, I would like to note a few items of significance.

Perhaps most importantly, I would like to draw your attention and memories to the recent legislative session of Virginia's General Assembly. There were a number of issues with which we became involved and a number of them will be ongoing issues that will consume our attention. Please read the Government Affairs Committee report to view the full breadth of them. However, I would like to personally thank each and every member who responded to the Legislative Action Alerts sent out by the Association. Many of these action alerts were directed towards defeating legislation that could have caused significant change in the structure of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) by allowing certain public school special education programs to receive CSA funding traditionally reserved for private schools. In no small way did our members respond to these calls to action and let legislators know of our opposition. This communication was vital to our efforts and I know I speak for everyone when I say "Thank you!" to those who responded.

As you will note with the theme of this conference, VAISEF is ensuring that we continue and reaffirm our history of maintaining a system of strong public/private partnerships. In the months since the Fall Conference, we have continued to share VAISEF's mission and objectives with Virginia Department of Education Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services John Eisenberg. Representatives of our Government Affairs and Quality Services Committee met with John earlier this year to share our years of collected outcomes data with him and engage in a conversation about how that data can enable more collaboration to further improve student outcomes. We also continue to advocate for the implementation of online SOL testing in all VAISEF schools and understand that John is engaging his VDOE counterparts to pursue that objective.

I would like to thank our Leadership Council for recently revisiting our most current strategic plan. They have analyzed our objectives and found new ways to recommend proceeding with issues of ongoing importance to our mission. Of course, one of those issues is further partnership and development of our relationships with external stakeholders. This conference is a perfect example of our commitment to being strong partners and I hope that each of you will walk away with a better of understanding of the system of resources available to us as we serve children.

VAISEF is also focusing on affirming our position as a quality network of schools in Virginia by increasing our presence at vendor fair events and other branding efforts. Our Membership Recruitment Committee is leading this charge and developing materials for use as we network and engage with others in the children's services delivery system.

There is always more to do, but I feel as though we have had a very productive year with many significant efforts underway. Please do not hesitate to talk to any member of the Board of Directors if you have interest or questions in a specific area of the association's work.

With another both challenging and rewarding year almost under our belts, I encourage you to take some time to refresh yourself as we go into the final stretch of school before June. Thank you for being here and have a wonderful time at the beach!

Leadership Council Report Karen B. Tompkins

Spring 2014

Committee

Accreditation
Government Affairs
Health and Safety
Membership Recruitment
Membership Services
Quality Services
Ways and Means

Chair

Warren Bull
Gary Jones
Michael Triggs
Mark Mellusi
Brian Summo
Amy Hartswick
Grey Martin

The Leadership Council met in February to review VAISEF's Strategic Plan. The following notes contain the comments of the Council for continuing work to meet the plan's goals and objectives.

Strategic Issue 1: Strengthening VAISEF's infrastructure via technology advancement and human capital investment

- **Goal 1:** Evaluate best practices in more fully integrating technology to optimize member communication/data outcomes/meetings and other operational issues.
 - **Objective 1:** Develop comprehensive IT plan to improve services to members. Incorporate identifying vendor to collect outcomes measurements as specified in Issue 3, Goal 3.
 - ❖ **Comment:** The Council recommended further website development to be more interactive, more resources and more committee engagement.
- **Goal 2:** Revise VAISEF's operational plan, including review and revise board and committee structure to improve membership engagement and committee productivity.
 - **Objective 1:** Determine optimal size and representation on Board and implement changes to incorporate more involvement and leadership of Board.
 - **Objective 2:** Evaluate committee structure and membership to ensure that all members' talents are utilized.
 - ❖ **Comment:** The Council felt the ongoing objective – membership engagement has been met. However, as this issue requires a more long-

term, thought out approach, the Council has asked the Executive Committee to further consider how we might better incentivize or encourage members to be engaged. We felt addressing long-range member engagement would be helpful. An annual survey could be done to track and then target non-engaged members.

- **Objective 3:** Increase visibility with state and national stakeholders to increase membership engagement.
- ❖ **Comment:** The Council felt we are well on our way on this objective.
- **Goal 3:** Complete analysis of VAISEF staffing structure
- ❖ **Comment:** Completed

Strategic Issue 2: Focus on demonstrating the quality of the educational services provided

- **Goal 1:** Demonstrate that private, special education VAISEF programs exceed or meet rigorous academic standards
 - **Objective 1:** Improve recognition of the values of accreditation by localities, OCS, and local CPMTs, Engage them as key stakeholders so that they identify the value of VAISEF membership and accreditation.
 - ❖ **Comment:** Some responsibilities of the Ad-Hoc Quality Education Committee need to be reassigned to other standing committees to include Quality Services, Membership Services, and Accreditation Committee. It recommends the Accreditation Committee take over the engagement with CSA Coordinators.
 - **Objective 2:** Demonstrate that VAISEF offers quality education by measuring IEP goals, and Objectives, as well as student's subsequent performance.
 - ❖ **Comment:** The Accreditation and Quality Services committees will continue to work on additional way to track measures of IEP skill mastery.

Strategic Issue 3: Decide on outcome measurements that are uniform in reporting across membership.

- **Goal 1:** Analyze existing data and determine usefulness. Present data to internal and external stakeholders for feedback.
 - **Objective 1:** Analyze current data pieces and decide what correlations and measurements are important to present to stakeholders. Prepare presentation(s) for internal and external audiences
 - **Objective 2:** Brief internal stakeholders on data. Verify common assumptions about outcomes with association members and receive sign off to move forward with external sharing of data.
 - **Objective 3:** Present data to external stakeholders. Engage stakeholders in the process and receive feedback on useful data.
 - ❖ **Comments:** VAISEF Outcomes data was presented to John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services. It has been recommended we continue to have further interaction with LEAs and local SPED directors. The data will need to be contextualized so it is relevant to the each audience. It is recommended employment and educational data points be separated. VAISEF needs to do a better job incorporating data into publications and corresponding with similar studies. We need to continue to focus on our 1-year follow-up survey.
- **Goal 2:** Identify and prioritize what stakeholders value as outcome measures
 - ❖ **Comment:** Completed
- **Goal 3:** Explore, investigate and select technology tool that can be modified to support on-going development.
 - **Comment:** The Council recommends moving forward in improving our outcome system; including the merging of legacy data and developing the new system capabilities to generate individual school reports.

Also, as the Council reviewed this plan it identified that many responsibilities disproportionately fall on the Quality Services Committee. The Council has requested that the Executive Committee further consider these responsibilities for prioritization or possible reassignment. With many items completed and many with work still to be done, the Leadership Council will continue to assess progress of this plan and recommend next steps for the committees to undertake. Please let us know if you want to be involved or have any comments.

Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report
James M. McGee

Spring 2014

VAISEF is halfway through the 2013-2014 fiscal year and we are on track according to our budget with our revenues and expenses through March 2014. Our management firm, Elwood Consulting, LLC, continues to monitor expenses and revenues and your Board is carefully monitoring the impact of our current financial situation as it impacts our members directly and VAISEF indirectly.

We continue to closely monitor the conditions in our industry as it impacts our members' ability to stay in business and maintain their memberships. There continue to be new members joining the association to maintain our dues revenue base and, despite one recent departure, our membership attrition has been minimal. Thanks to conservative budgeting by the VAISEF Board of Directors, the Ways & Means Committee and our staff, the association is well prepared financially to continue through any economic times.

The **VAISEF Ways & Means Committee** encourages VAISEF members who are not participating in the insurance program to allow Jerry Partlow, Michael Partlow, Brian Partlow and John Markwood of the Partlow Insurance Agency, Inc. to meet with you and determine if their products can meet your needs. Their agency offers a "no strings attached" review of VAISEF members insurance. This review service, for which a school might expect to pay \$2,000 - \$5,000, has already proved valuable to several VAISEF members and schools in other states' private special education associations in helping them discover gaps in their insurance. We encourage those of you not yet participating to discuss this program with the folks at Partlow Insurance Agency.

Should you have any questions about the VAISEF Insurance Programs or any other of our purchasing partners, please do not hesitate to contact the VAISEF office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accreditation Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Chair: Warren Bull, Specialized Youth Services
Vice-Chair: Sheila Green, Metropolitan Day School
Allison Stein, Minnick Schools – Harrisonburg
Amy Hartswick, The Kellar School
Ann Warnke, Accotink Academy Therapeutic Day School
Bill Bowling, Jackson-Feild Homes
Brendan Folmer, Charterhouse School
Chip Chase, The Discovery School of Virginia
Cindy Mills, The Barry Robinson Center
Dawna Vaughn, The Gladys H. Oberle School
Denise Moss, Jackson-Feild Homes
Fran Shirey, The Kellar School of Inova Kellar Center
Gene Lemarr, Little Keswick
Hunter Smith, Oakland School
Jeremy Marcantel, Jackson-Feild Homes
Jim McGee, Rivermont School
Jordyn Hardy, The Kellar School of Inova Kellar Center
Julie Wingfield, Riverside School
Kristen Sabo, Liberty Point Behavioral Healthcare
Lisa Milliken, Minnick Schools - Roanoke
Liz Allen, Rivermont Schools
Lynn Bezue, White Oak School
Lynn Quash, Hallmark Youthcare
Mark Kindler, Little Keswick School
Mary Daggy, Liberty Point Behavioral Healthcare
Pam Simms, The Gladys Oberle School
Pat West, Northstar Academy
Renatta Marble, Kempsville Center for Behavioral Health
Rorie Hutter, Virginia Institute of Autism
Stephanie Doyle, Rivermont School - Roanoke
Tommy Barber, HopeTree Family Services
Tracy Gibson, Minnick Education Center
Patricia St. Clair, The Gladys H. Oberle School
Wade Puryear, Elk Hill

Committee Activities:

1. Schools reviewed for Initial Accreditation
 - a. None
2. Schools Reviewed for Re-accreditation
 - a. Rivermont Schools – System Accreditation
 - b. Timber Ridge School
 - c. The Kellar School
 - d. Charter House School
 - e. Oak Valley Center
3. Upcoming Site Visits in 2013/14
 - a. LIFES Academy – Initial Accreditation
 - b. North Spring Behavioral Healthcare
 - c. East End Academy
 - d. Virginia Institute of Autism
 - e. The Dominion School
 - f. Lafayette School And Treatment Center
4. Corrective Action Plans Reviewed
 - a. Rivermont Schools (System)
5. Mid-term self-studies received
 - a. Accotink Academy
 - b. Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center
 - c. Minnick Schools
 - d. Jackson Feild Homes
 - e. Building Blocks Center for Autism

6. Ongoing Review Of Standards And Accreditation Process

- a. The first Systems Review took place with Wade Puryear leading a review of the 9 Rivermont schools as a single system of schools. The review was observed by a representative from VCPE who reported to the VCPE Accreditation Committee and recommended that the VAISEF Systems Accreditation process be recognized by VCPE. The VCPE Board voted to recognize VAISEF's Systems Accreditation at their January meeting.
- b. Tommy Barber's subcommittee continues to address accreditation issues that come before the committee and is currently working with specific stakeholders whose programs have a residential component to determine how the residential component can best and most reasonably be reviewed under VAISEF's Accreditation Standards.
- c. As an ongoing review of the standards, additional clarification and guidance is being included in the Accreditation Handbook This will enable reviewers to conduct reviews with more consistency across programs while allowing for the unique populations, programs and circumstances of each facility. Where practical, specific clarification will be added to the guidance section of the Accreditation Standards.
- d. Self study reporting requirements have been developed by the committee and approved by the Board.
- e. Clarifying revisions were made to the Client Youth Composition Codes in the Accreditation Application.
- f. A recommendation was made to the Board that a policy be adopted addressing a facility's right to appeal an accreditation determination in accordance with VCPE requirements. It is the recommendation of the committee that the decision of the Board regarding a facility's accreditation is final and there is no process for appeal.
- g. A stated philosophy of VAISEF Accreditation will be included in the Accreditation procedures that ensure support and collaboration with facilities seeking VAISEF Accreditation with the goal being to guide each facility to a successful accreditation within a reasonable period of time (generally one year).

Government Affairs Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Chair: David Blaiklock, Phillips School - Annandale
Gary Jones, Youth For Tomorrow
Michael Farley, Elk Hill
John Lamanna, Timber Ridge School
Andrew McCartney, The Kellar School of Inova Kellar Center
Mark Mellusi, The Discovery School of Virginia
Lane McIntyre, Oakwood School

The Government Affairs Committee has had a very active year already; beginning with the contentious 2014 Virginia General Assembly and continuing with its aftermath leading into the still on-going Special Session. Below is a recap of the just completed 2014 Session and its impact on our interests.

2014 General Assembly Recap

The 2014 Session of the General Assembly adjourned as scheduled on March 8th as scheduled, but without agreement on a new two-year state budget. This budget impasse has been caused by the disagreement between the House and Senate on the issue of Medicaid expansion (or “closing the health insurance coverage gap”). The House chose not to address this issue in their version of the budget, while the Senate proposed a private marketplace option in their budget. From the day these two very different versions of the budget were adopted by the two houses, neither budged towards the other’s position. Therefore no budget agreement was reached and the Governor called a special session for March 24 to try to reach agreement. As of this writing, no agreement has been reached while the rest of state and local government waits for a budget to fund their operations for the next two years.

As the 2014 Session closed, these main issues identified at the beginning of the Session as potentially dominating this year’s General Assembly were resolved (or not):

Medicaid Expansion - This issue was most definitely *not* resolved at adjournment, serving as the main impasse in the way of adopting the biennial state budget and it has been the centerpiece of the ongoing Special Session. The House is firmly against expansion in any form at this time and wishes to continue the work of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC), a legislative panel that was created last year to oversee reforms in the state Medicaid system before authorizing Virginia’s

expansion of the Medicaid program. On the other hand, the Senate, along with the Governor, is more eager to go along with the expansion and gain access to the nearly \$2 billion a year in Federal health related dollars that come with it. Both sides are now in their bunkers prepared for a long fight that could well last into June and threaten a government shutdown.

Mental Health Reform: In the aftermath of the tragic events culminating in the attack on Senator Creigh Deeds by his son and the son's subsequent suicide, a great deal of attention was focused on Virginia's mental health delivery system. Governor McDonnell offered additional funding in his outgoing budget to expand existing programs and established the Task Force on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response to come up with recommendations to improve the system further. In addition to these actions, both houses put additional funding in their budgets and several pieces of legislation were passed, with Senator Deeds at the forefront, to broaden emergency custody orders and temporary detention orders to give mental health professionals time to find appropriate treatment for individuals in crisis, rather than simply returning them home (or "streeting" them) after the initial orders expired.

Ethics Reform: Another major issue was ethics reform for state officials. These efforts came in response to the scandal surrounding (and recent indictment of) former Governor McDonnell and his wife over gifts they received while in office. On Inauguration Day, as he had promised during the gubernatorial campaign, Governor McAuliffe signed an Executive Order banning any gifts to the Governor or members of his family over \$100 in value. While numerous pieces of legislation were introduced to address gifts to officials, the final legislation adopted will likely only address the issue on the margins. Meaningful reform continues to remain elusive.

Other legislation of interest that was introduced and resolved in one fashion or another is outlined below.

Comprehensive Services Act:

Of significant concern were dual House and Senate bills, put forward at the request of Stafford County, which as introduced would have allowed localities who offer special education services which are felt adequate to meet the needs of a child in their system, the opportunity to access CSA funding and the state match rate that goes with it:

HB 229 (Cole) / SB 153 (Stuart) – These bills were significantly reduced in scope from their introduced versions, first to apply only to the immediate areas surrounding Stafford County and then to apply only to children brought back from private placements. However, we still actively opposed this concept. **HB 229** was eventually sent to the Appropriations Committee, where it was tabled in a subcommittee. But

the proponents were very aggressive in their efforts on this issue. The Senate actually passed **SB 153** after assurances from the patron on the floor that it would “save money” for each child brought back from a private placement. SB 153 was actually reported from the House Education Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education, but after much discussion and effort, we were successful in having the full Education Committee refer the bill to the Appropriations Committee, where like HB 229, it was tabled in a subcommittee. This was a dangerous concept and could have had significant long term negative fiscal impact on the CSA, as it was a clear departure from previous practice in child placement and funding.

Several other bills and budget amendments dealt with the CSA:

HB 852 (Gilbert) / SB 426 (Hanger) – Required CSA State Executive Council, in setting and changing official policy, to adhere to state’s administrative process act (APA). APA requires government entities, in their rulemaking and regulatory processes, to proceed in an open, timely and prescriptive manner. **HB 852** was referred by House General Laws to the Appropriations Committee, where it was tabled in the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee. **SB 426** passed the Senate, but was also eventually tabled in the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee.

HB 522 (Richard Bell) – Requires community policy and management teams to establish policies and procedures for appeals of decisions made by local family assessment and planning teams regarding services to be provided to the youth and family pursuant to an individual family services plan. This process would not apply to appeals made in accordance with the IDEA. **HB 522** passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed by the Governor.

Several bills dealt with membership/terms of SEC and SLAT representatives:

SB 369 (Favola) – Would have added a third private provider representative to the State Executive Council, as well as a member who may be either a representative of a child advocacy group or organization or a representative of a mental health advocacy group with a specialization in children's mental health and also adds a public provider representative. **SB 369** passed the Senate and was assigned to a subcommittee of the House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee, where it was eventually tabled.

HB 520 (Richard Bell) – Adds a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge to the State Executive Council, appointed by the Governor, and removes Governor's Special Advisor on Children's Services (position no longer exists) from the panel. **HB 520** passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed by the Governor.

HB 521 (Richard Bell) – Would have provided that non-state agency members of the state and local advisory team shall be limited to no more than two consecutive three year terms. **HB 521** passed the House 68-22 and was assigned to the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, where it was passed by indefinitely.

HJR 196 (Adams) – This resolution was amended to be a Commission on Youth study to (i) examine the use of CSA and Medicaid funds for private day and private residential special education placements; (ii) gather local and statewide data on the extent to which youth are placed in settings that are segregated from nondisabled students; (iii) determine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of more integrated alternatives to provide special education services to students including, but not limited to, those students with intellectual and developmental disabilities currently in segregated settings in the Commonwealth; and (iv) consider any other matters as it deems appropriate to meet the objectives of this study. As amended, **HJR 196** passed the House and the Senate.

CSA Budget Issues:

We had introduced budget amendments in the House and Senate to repeal the fiscal disincentive in the CSA for residential placements. Another set of amendments introduced would require CSA to reinvest any unused funds at the end of a fiscal year back into services identified under the annual service gaps survey, rather than have those funds spent elsewhere in the state budget. When the two houses announced their separate budgets earlier in the Session, neither adopted amendments to repeal the residential disincentive or to reinvest CSA savings to fund critical services gaps. A last minute downward revision of revenue estimates just before the budgets were announced likely hurt any chance for the disincentive repeal, while any savings from CSA are already being seen as a source for expanded foster care services (at least in the Senate). However, there is still no final budget.

Comparable Education:

HB 221 (Richard Bell) – We asked Delegate Bell to introduce this bill. Required localities to pay for **educational services of children parentally placed, under doctor's orders, in residential settings for non-educational reasons**. Although some localities currently pay for these services for children with IEP's, this practice is not consistent throughout the state. Some refuse to pay anything at all, expecting facility to "scholarship" these services, while others only supply a "visiting teacher" who may only give an hour's worth of instruction daily. Continued educational progress is an integral part of a student's treatment program and we feel localities

must begin recognizing (and paying for) this as part of the treatment plan. Representatives of most local school divisions opposed bill, viewing it as an “unfunded mandate.” **HB 221** was reported from House Education Committee and sent to House Appropriations Committee. During the process, it became difficult to identify exactly where children impacted by this issue resided, so determining fiscal impact by locality was nearly impossible. Also, it became clear that best solution for this population was to make them eligible for CSA funding for their educational services as soon as possible. For these reasons, at the request of the patron, Appropriations Committee tabled HB 221 and requested that it be made part of the Commission on Youth study authorized by HJR 196 (mentioned earlier). In addition, we have been working with the CSA office and the State Executive Council to explore ways to begin addressing this issue administratively.

Juvenile Sex Offender Registry:

HB 523 (Albo) – Similar to legislation offered unsuccessfully two years ago, this bill would create a mandatory juvenile sex offender registry, taking judicial discretion away in these circumstances and place juveniles adjudicated of these offenses onto a public registry. This would jeopardize current accepted treatment procedures in these cases and potentially curtail community based alternatives. We were encouraged that no Senate version of this legislation was offered and made contacts with the incoming Administration to ask that they not support this measure. We worked with other advocates to actively oppose the legislation. As expected, **HB 523** passed the House, but was passed by indefinitely in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee, 9-6.

Independent Living Services Extension:

HB 668 (Brink) / SB 134 (Favola) – Requires local departments of social services and child-placing agencies to provide independent living services to any person between 18-21 who is transitioning from commitment to Department of Juvenile Justice to self-sufficiency when they were in custody of the local department of social services immediately prior to commitment, provides written notice of intent to receive independent living services, and enters into a written agreement for independent living services with the local board of social services or child-placing agency within 60 days of release. Currently, local departments and child-placing agencies may but are not required to provide these independent living services. **HB 668** and **SB 134** passed both houses and were signed by the Governor..

Mental Health:

Over 20 bills were introduced that modified or otherwise amended statutes regarding emergency custody orders or temporary detention orders. Most of these bills in the Senate were rolled into one vehicle to move forward during the Session. There were also House bills addressing these issues.

SB 260 (Deeds) – This bill became the omnibus bill from the Senate. In its final agreed upon version, it will accomplish the following:

- Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to establish an acute psychiatric bed registry that will provide real-time information on the availability of beds in public and private psychiatric facilities and residential crisis stabilization units for individuals who meet the criteria for temporary detention. Of particular interest to private providers on this provision, the following language in the legislation should be noted [**emphasis added**]:
 - *C. Every state facility, community services board, behavioral health authority, and private inpatient provider licensed by the Department shall participate in the acute psychiatric bed registry established pursuant to subsection A and shall designate such employees as may be necessary to submit information for inclusion in the acute psychiatric bed registry and serve as a point of contact for addressing requests for information related to data reported to the acute psychiatric bed registry.*
- Extends the time that a person may be held pursuant to an emergency custody order from four hours with a possible two-hour extension to eight hours. (This provision expires on June 30, 2018.)
- Provides that a representative of the law-enforcement agency that takes the person into emergency custody or executes an emergency custody order must notify the local community services board as soon as practicable after the person is taken into custody or the order is executed.
- Provides that an individual for whom a temporary detention order is issued shall be detained in a state facility unless the state facility or an employee or designee of the community services board is able to identify an alternative facility that is able and willing to provide temporary detention. Under no circumstances shall a state facility fail or refuse to admit an individual who meets the criteria for temporary detention unless an alternative facility has agreed to accept the individual. The state facility and the local community services board may continue to look for an alternative facility for an additional four hours.

- Requires that a person who is the subject of an emergency custody order or temporary detention order be given a written summary of the procedures and statutory protections associated with such custody or detention.
- Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the implementation of the provisions of the bill.
- Directs the Governor's Mental Health Task Force to study issues associated with law enforcement's involvement in the admission process and make recommendations designed to reduce the burden on law-enforcement resources.

SB 260 passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

The following House Bills address individually all the issues incorporated in SB 260:

HB 1232 (Cline) – Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to establish an acute psychiatric bed registry to provide real-time information on the availability of beds in public and private psychiatric facilities and residential crisis stabilization units for individuals who meet the criteria for temporary detention..

HB 293 (Robert Bell) – Provides that an individual for whom a temporary detention order is issued shall be detained in a state facility unless the state facility or an employee or designee of the community services board is able to identify an alternative facility that is able and willing to provide temporary detention.

HB 478 (Villanueva) – Increases from four hours to eight hours the time during which a person may be held pursuant to an emergency custody order.

Other mental health legislation that was passed:

HB 540 (Hope) – Clarifies provisions governing issuance of a license to a private provider by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, provides that a provisional license may be issued to a provider that has failed to comply with regulations other than those related to health and safety of a person receiving services in certain cases, and clarifies situations in which certain sanctions may be imposed upon a provider. **HB 540** passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

Mental Health Budget Issues:

Many budget amendments were introduced to provide new funding of mental health initiatives. A number of them called for public private partnerships. We had an amendment introduced by Senator Bill Carrico, who was a member of the Senate Finance Committee and its Health and Human Resources Subcommittee.

Unfortunately, as expected, Senator Carrico was one of the victims of the Democratic takeover of the Senate and in the process, lost his seats on those two entities. As mentioned earlier, the state budget remains in impasse over Medicaid expansion. However, the two bodies up to that point had addressed mental health issues as follows:

- House recommended additional \$48.0 million in general fund dollars for services to individuals with mental disabilities (on top of money already added in introduced budget). Included is almost \$23.7 million over biennium to address mental health legislation passed earlier this Session in the House and shore up critical funding needs at state mental health hospitals. Funding will provide psychiatric inpatient services to individuals in crisis and subject to temporary detention, allow for extension of emergency custody orders by 4 hours and provide for real-time psychiatric bed registry. In addition, House is recommending \$24.3 million over biennium for community-based mental health services. Funding will provide 17 new crisis intervention drop-off centers, more than doubling number of centers in existence today. Funding will provide 3 additional Programs of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) teams, increase outpatient services for youth ages 17-24, and provide for greater use of tele-psychiatry to support assessments and consultations, particularly in rural areas.
- Senate added \$20 million “to ensure that Virginians with mental illness have timely access to a continuum of care.” The Senate recommends additional funding for children’s mental health, supportive housing, discharge assistance, therapeutic assessment or “drop off centers”, as well as resources to implement the Omnibus Mental Health bill being carried by Senator Creigh Deeds (SB 260). Also, implementation of “Marketplace Virginia” (Medicaid expansion) not only could access more than \$200 million dollars each year in hospital care, mental health counseling and medication management, but also intensive community-based care and support.

Education/School Related Issues Approved–2014 General Assembly

Standards of Learning Reform & Diploma Requirements

HB 930 (Greason) and SB 306 (Deeds) – These bills were the primary SOL reform bills considered by the General Assembly. As passed by the General Assembly, the most significant provision is the reduction in SOL tests in grades 3-8 from 22 to 17 tests. More specifically, it will require:

- Reading and mathematics tests in grades 3 and 4;
- Reading, mathematics, and science tests in grade 5;
- Reading and mathematics tests in grades 6 and 7;
- Reading, writing, mathematics, and science tests in grade 8; and
- Virginia Studies and Civics & Economics tests once each at grade levels determined by each local school board (*Virginia studies normally done in grades 4 or 5 and Civics & Economics normally done in grades 7 or 8*).

The legislation specifies that local school boards will provide other alternative assessments to students in grades 3-8 for SOL subjects in which a SOL test was not administered. We have asked VDOE to be sure to consider the special situation of private schools for students with disabilities that serve students from multiple localities as they write guidelines for such alternative assessments and the VDOE policy team has assured us that they will account for such situations in the guidelines.

SOL testing for high school grades remains unchanged in this legislation. However, the legislation establishes the *Standards of Learning Innovation Committee*; a committee of members appointed by the Secretary of Education, to include parents, teachers, school administrators, legislators, and other stakeholders. This committee will make recommendation to the Secretary, the Board of Education, and the General Assembly on future SOL reforms. The Board of Education will also have further authority to reduce the number of SOL assessments, as long as the number and type of remaining assessments meet the minimal requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. These bills passed the General Assembly with broad support and were signed by the Governor.

HB 1054 (Loupassi) – This bill, pushed by Microsoft, will require the Board of Education to consider all computer science course credits earned by students to be science course credits, mathematics course credits, or career and technical education credits. Additionally, the Board of Education must develop guidelines addressing how these computer science courses can satisfy graduation requirements. This legislation passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor.

Services for Students & Education Funding

HB 659 (Bell, Robert) – This bill would have required representatives of local community services boards and local school divisions to meet with every student with intellectual disability or emotional disturbance who receives special education and related services and who is expected to graduate with a special diploma or certificate of program completion who has not yet met with a representative of the community services board or behavioral health authority as part of transition planning at least one time during the year prior to the student's graduation from, aging out of, or otherwise leaving public education to provide the student, and his parent or guardian if present, with information about (i) the types of services provided by the local community services board or behavioral health authority available to the student upon his graduation from, aging out of, or otherwise leaving public education and (ii) the process by which the student may begin receiving services upon graduation from, aging out of, or otherwise leaving public education.

During the initial committee process, we raised the question of students with other disabilities receiving such information as well. It was communicated that due to fiscal impact on CSBs and school divisions, that the desire was to limit this initial new requirement to the disability populations most in need of services, and that if successful, the statute could be expanded to other populations in future years. The House Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee approved the bill, but re-referred it to the Appropriations Committee, as the fiscal impact of the measure was calculated at \$1,600,000 to cover the cost of each CSB hiring an employee for such meetings. Because of that impact, the Appropriations Committee decided to carry the bill over until the 2015 Session, effectively killing the measure for the year.

HB 1110 (Toscano) – Requires a receiving school division to be reimbursed by the school division in which a child's custodial parent or guardian or most recent custodial parent or guardian resides for the costs of educating such child, whether disabled or not, when the child has been placed in foster care or in a group home that is located within the geographical boundaries of the school division to be reimbursed. This was a complicated issue to examine, as definitions of residence are difficult to sort out between various statutes and VDOE regulations. We weighed in on the bill, as it originally only affected group home placements, which could have provided a fiscal disincentive towards such placing decisions. In its amended form, the bill passed the General Assembly unanimously and now awaits action by the Governor.

Virtual Education

Regarding virtual school legislation, it may not directly impact private schools for students with disabilities, but providers should be aware of new statutes as they may affect current or future students.

HB 1086 (Dickie Bell) – This bill provides that special education students who are enrolled in a full-time virtual education program operated by a school division other than the student’s school division of residence, shall be provided a free and appropriate public education, to include special education (and related services), by the locality whose virtual program in which they are enrolled. The legislation ensures that state and federal funding follows the student. The bill passed the General Assembly unanimously and was signed by the Governor.

HB 1115 (Greason) – Of the virtual education bills reported here, this bill has the most potential to (positively) impact students in private schools for students with disabilities. The bill will allow the VDOE to contract with individual local school boards who have developed their own virtual courses to make such courses available to other school divisions in the state. This has the potential to significantly expand Virtual Virginia course offerings. It will also create the Virtual Learning Advisory Committee to advise the VDOE on virtual courses and planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities. The bill was passed unanimously by the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor.

HB 324 (Dickie Bell) – As the most recent in a series of attempts at establishing a public, statewide, full-time virtual program, this bill would have created the Virginia Virtual School, for Virginia students wishing to enroll in a full-time virtual education, [including desiring special education students]. It would not have eliminated the current Virtual Virginia program that offers individual courses to students. The public school sector opposed this legislation, as they have done in the past, due to their concerns about students (and their funding) being taken away from the public school divisions. After passing the House on a mostly party-line vote, the bill was continued to 2015 in the Senate Education and Health Committee, with a request to further study the student financing aspect of the proposed statute.

Legislative Studies and Reports

HB 1106 (Hope) – This bill will require that the General Assembly’s Joint Commission on Health Care review the use of seclusion and restraint in public and private elementary and secondary schools. The Commission will also make recommendations for the modernization of Virginia’s policies and regulations on the issue. This issue was spurred by incidents regarding inappropriate use of restraint and

seclusion in public schools and the lack of state statutes or regulations on such use. We communicated to the bill's patron, Delegate Patrick Hope (D-Arlington), that private schools for students with disabilities are currently governed by state regulations, and that private special education facilities have taken this issue a step further by requiring formalized policies and use of a formalized crisis intervention program for our accredited programs. We have asked to be contacted as the Commission conducts their review.

Teachers and Staff Licensure

HB 926 (Greason) – This legislation establishes the Advisory Board on Behavior Analysis to advise the Board of Medicine on issues related to licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts and clarifies that individuals employed by licensed schools for students with disabilities who perform behavior analysis as part of their regular duties is not required to be licensed as a behavior analyst. The specific language pertaining to such individuals is as follows:

D. The provisions of § [54.1-2957.16](#) shall not be construed as prohibiting or restricting the activities of an individual employed by a school board or by a school for students with disabilities licensed by the Board of Education from providing behavior analysis when such behavior analysis is performed as part of the regular duties of his office or position and he receives no compensation in excess of the compensation he regularly receives for the performance of the duties of his office or position. No person exempted from licensure pursuant to this subsection shall hold himself out as a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst unless he holds a license as such issued by the Board.

We worked closely with Delegate Greason, the Virginia School Boards Association, and Virginia Department of Education to ensure the licensure clarification was made. After the initial licensure legislation for behavior analysts was passed in 2013, VDOE and the Board of Medicine identified that without further statutory clarification, all teachers or other school staff who work with students with autism or other applicable disabilities could have been required to become licensed as behavior analysts. The legislation passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor.

HB 758 (Rust) – Requires every teacher seeking licensure with an endorsement in career and technical education to have an industry certification credential in the subject area in which the teacher seeks endorsement that is earned by successfully passing a Board of Education-approved industry certification examination, being issued a state professional license, or passing an occupational competency examination. This bill passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor.

Conclusions:

The 2014 Regular Session has adjourned. While many issues were addressed, the fact remains that there is far-reaching unfinished business to be resolved. The issues that remain are contentious, partisan and emotional and a great deal is at stake politically and financially. Until some agreement on Medicaid expansion can be reached, there will be no budget and the threat of a government shutdown on June 30th is real. No budget also means that many positive and needed initiatives sit dormant, especially regarding increased mental health funding, which have been approved by both houses. Until someone blinks or comes up with a palatable solution, we will wait.

Additional Committee Activities:

Although the General Assembly absorbs a great deal of our attention and resources during the early part of the year, the Committee still has many other projects and issues to oversee. Some of these include:

State Agency Information Sharing / Monitoring Regulatory Actions:

David Blaiklock and Amy Hartswick met in January with John Eisenberg, the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services at the Virginia Department of Education. The meeting focused on sharing the Outcomes for students who were placed in VAISEF programs by their IEP. The passing rates for SOLs were also shared during the meeting. Dr. Eisenberg seemed pleased with the outcomes and made recommendations for other ways to share the information. The data helped debunk the myth that once students are placed in VAISEF programs, they never transition to other environments. Other opportunities of public-private partnerships were discussed and he expressed an interest in reviewing these data every year. Dr. Eisenberg recognized the benefits of VAISEF programs and how they can be helpful to students in special education who are struggling in the public schools.

VAISEF Legislator Day:

The Government Affairs Committee is piloting a Legislator Day at three of our member programs in May 2014. These will be regional and the idea is to start small and then scale up in subsequent years. Programs will have the opportunity to share information with state legislators and then present the VAISEF position on several issues. This is another attempt to develop relationships with legislators so they understand the value of VAISEF programs.

**Statement on Inadequate Comparable Education Services for Children
Admitted to Residential Facilities for Non-Educational Reasons**

**State Executive Council
Comprehensive Services Act for At Risk Youth and Families**

March 24, 2014

Mr. Chair and members of the State Executive Council, I am here today on behalf of both the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA) and the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) to discuss and ask for your assistance on an issue that has risen to critical importance within our system of care for children who have been admitted to residential treatment facilities for non-educational or mental health reasons.

There currently exists a gap in our system that does not provide funding for appropriate comparable educational services for children with a diagnosed mental illness and who are admitted into a licensed residential treatment facility under a physician's order for non-educational reasons. While their mental health treatment services can be funded through Medicaid, there is no consistent funding source to pay for their educational services while they are in a facility for mental health reasons.

These students have been admitted by medical necessity under a physician's order for non-educational reasons, and the parents have not waived the child's right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Although they have been placed in residential facilities that offer Virginia DOE fully licensed 5 hour a day educational programs, often in these cases because the child was not placed through the FAPT process, the children's home locality is only willing to authorize "homebound" educational services, which only provides one hour of daily instruction. Those students coming from regular education settings without an IEP are most often not offered any educational services from the locality and the treating facility is being expected to "scholarship" the cost of the child's education while they are in residence.

During the last three years, we have been working to bring this to the attention of decision makers and policy leaders throughout state government. During the 2014 Session, your SEC colleague Delegate Bell introduced legislation in an attempt to solve the problems with this issue. As we have worked through this process, there has been no disagreement that these educational services are vital to the eventual successful mental health outcome for the child and essential to their educational progress when they return to their home school division. Unfortunately, these children seem to have fallen through a gap in the service delivery and funding system. At question are multiple funding sources that cross several state agency jurisdictional

boundaries, as well as impacting local school divisions. We have worked and met with all of these entities (including many of the agencies represented here today) and are encouraged that we are headed in the right direction to find a solution that solves the problem, does it in the right way and is equitable to all, especially to these children and their families.

But we need your help collectively and as individual entities to make sure this happens. Even as we speak, the practice of asking our facilities to absorb or “scholarship” the educational services costs for these children is increasing. As new mental health placements are being made, referral entities are asking our members to waive educational fees and in some cases parents with Medicaid approval of their child’s mental health treatment services are being discouraged from working through the FAPT process, again putting more pressure on facilities to provide educational services for free.

We are not sure why educational services are being viewed as the service to be discounted or devalued. Certainly, if you took the situation in reverse, it would be unconceivable to ask a facility treating a child for educational reasons to then also provide needed mental health treatment services at a discount or for free. Comparable educational services are vitally essential to the success of appropriate mental health treatment and to the eventual successful return of the child to the local school division in the least restrictive environment, therefore educational services should not be treated as a “throw in” to other services.

As we explored this issue during the 2014 Session with the many numerous stakeholders, it appeared the most desirable outcome was to find a way for these children to become eligible for CSA funding as soon as possible for their educational services. That is where we need your help collectively and individually. We implore the SEC to explore all avenues open to you administratively to help make this a reality. As in the case last year when you clarified your policy on the use of state pool funds for services *not* approved by Medicaid, it would seem logical that if mental health services *are* approved by Medicaid, there should be some mechanism to get these children deemed eligible for CSA funding for their educational services as soon as possible. It is our hope that you will take this issue on for further discussion, study and possible administrative action as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

William P. Elwood
Executive Director

Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA)
Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF)

Health & Safety Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Michael Triggs, The Hughes Center
Chasni Gerald, Accotink Academy
Keith King, Matthew's Center
Terra Garrett, The Kellar School at Inova Kellar Center
Terry Tinsley, Youth For Tomorrow
Travis Baisden, Elk Hill

The Health & Safety Committee is responsible for both the ongoing review and monitoring of the MATY program and addressing other issues pertaining to the health and safety of students and staff in VAISEF programs. The committee has the following items on their workplan.

- Periodic Review of MATY Curriculum

Every three years, the MATY curriculum should be reviewed, per Board of Nursing guidance, for any necessary updates. The Health & Safety Committee is engaging several of the individuals who wrote the curriculum, as well as surveying prior course participants, trainers, and the supervisors of trained individuals. If you would like to provide feedback on the MATY curriculum, please feel free to use one of the survey links as follows:

Survey for Trained Medication Administrators

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MATYAdministrators>

Survey for Supervisors of Trained Employees

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MATYSupervisors>

Survey for MATY Course Trainers

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MATYTrainers>

- VAISEF Health & Safety Standards

The committee has completed a review of the VAISEF Accreditation Standards dealing with health to make recommendations to the Accreditation Committee for which standards should be marked as critical. These recommendations are now before the full VAISEF membership for consideration and approval.

- Annual Refresher Guidelines

The committee started discussing generating guidelines and sample templates for the required MATY annual refresher that facilities conduct in-house. The committee plans to continue working on these documents.

Please note that there are currently two MATY classes available for registration; May 7-8 and June 5-6. Don't hesitate to sign up now if you are interested in taking a course. If you have questions about the MATY program, please go to the MATY website at <http://maty.vaisef.org>.

Membership Recruitment Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Chair: Mark Mellusi, The Discovery School of Virginia
Holly Peele, Northstar Academy
Barret Stump, Lafayette School and Treatment Center
Jennifer Younger, Rivermont School

In mid-March, the committee staffed a VAISEF vendor information table at the Northern Virginia CSA Symposium, making use of newly acquired promotional materials. The VAISEF presence was well-received and provided an opportunity to promote the VAISEF brand as an indicator of high quality education and service. We plan to establish a presence at upcoming vendor fairs in Buckingham and Suffolk in early May. As part of educating the public about VAISEF's mission, we like to highlight the achievements of individual member schools, so if there is something particular you would like the committee to know about your school, please pass it along to a committee member.



The Membership Recruitment Committee would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of VAISEF to Charterhouse School in Edinburg on its recent acceptance for membership by the Association.

Charterhouse-Edinburg is affiliated with long standing VAISEF member Charterhouse



School in Richmond and UMFS. About half way between Winchester and Harrisonburg, the school is located in a newly refurbished middle/high school. Charterhouse-Edinburg offers elementary, middle and high school classes to students with a variety of disabilities.

The Membership Recruitment Committee accepts and processes nominations for VAISEF membership, recruits potential members, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding membership applications. The Committee also arranges brief site visits to establish personal contact with the people at the prospective member facility, and to get the best possible sense for the prospective school's strengths and mission. The most consistently reliable source of referrals for new VAISEF membership is recommendation by individuals from current VAISEF member facilities. Whether the prospective school has recently opened or is well established, it is often that personal connection which instigates the membership process. Anyone interested in recommending a prospective school or in joining the committee should contact one of the committee members listed above.

Membership Services Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Chair: Brian Summo, Rivermont School – Alleghany Highlands
Sue Horstman, The Dominion School
Jaren Van Den Heuvel, Oak Valley Center
Fredericka Harris, North Springs
Marianne Stinson, Rivermont School – Tidewater
Terry Templeton, Rivermont School – Dan River
Kate Russell, The Kellar School
Sheila Green, Metropolitan Day School

2014 Spring Conference – Strengthening Partnerships

The 2014 Spring Conference is being held at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. This year's conference is focusing on strengthening our partnerships with public agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. We will have presentations from members of the Virginia Department of Education, Local Education Agency Representatives, and members from the Office of Comprehensive Services to provide our members with how we can more effectively work together towards providing success for our students.

Summer Symposium – Risk Management

Please be on the lookout for an invitation to attend our summer symposium, which will be held in August!

2014 Fall Conference – Trauma

Our Fall Conference will be held at Bridges Residential Treatment Center located in Lynchburg, VA on October 24, 2014. This conference will focus on the effects that Trauma has on children in our setting from different perspectives.

Margaret Shepherd Award

The Margaret Shepherd Award annually recognizes a teacher who works with students with special needs and is employed by a school that is a member of VAISEF. This teacher must demonstrate a level of excellence and commitment consistent with the teaching career of Margaret Shepherd from Oakland School. This year our recipient is Melissa Shuler from Rivermont School – Fredericksburg.

Making a Difference Award

This award is intended to recognize a staff member that truly is “Making a Difference” in the lives of young people. The award is open to all Professional and Para Professional Staff (except teachers,

CEOs, Presidents, and executive level positions) who work with students with special needs and who is employed by a VAISEF member school. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate a level of excellence and commitment to their students. This year our recipient is Love Jones from Youth For Tomorrow.

Some other goals that our committee will be working towards over the next year are reviewing the criteria for the Making a Difference and Margaret Shepherd Awards, providing all of our referral sources with a link to our newly remodeled web-site and finishing our planning for the Summer Symposium and Fall Conference. Also, be on the lookout for your schools to help plan our next Spring Conference. We will be focusing on Best Practices and will be asking our member facilities to provide presentations to show what great strategies we are using in our schools and classrooms! If you or anyone you know may be interested in joining the Membership Services Committee we would love to have you!

Quality Services Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Chair: Amy Hartswick, Inova Kellar Center

Vice-Chair: Katherine Means, Virginia Home for Boys and Girls

David Blaiklock, PHILLIPS Programs – Annandale

Debbie Pell, The Dominion School

Pamela Simms, The Gladys H. Oberle School

Ed Tabish, Youth For Tomorrow

Lloyd Tannenbaum, Rivermont Schools

The Quality Services Committee has been busy with our many initiatives that correspond to our focus on supporting the quality programs that VAISEF schools offer our communities. We have collected data, co-hosted the virtual education symposium with Membership Services, and launched new initiatives. As always, we **welcome new members** at any time if you, too, would like to be a part of these exciting developments! If you see anything below that intrigues you or you have an idea for a project you would like to put forth or join until it launches with no lasting commitment, please seek out one of the members listed above. We value input and new perspectives!

Outcomes

The first effort at schools' entering their own data has been a qualified success. Across the board, schools seemed to have few problems with entry into the new system once they accessed it and if they had their forms filled out accurately. We feel that this further reinforces the need to diligently collect the data that is listed on forms as it will save you a lot of frustration when entering your own information online. We are currently checking the new system with the old system after nagging incessantly to get data entered correctly on both systems, and deleting errors that folks inadvertently made when entering their own information. Many people have asked about the forms for the current school year (2013-2014) and unfortunately, we cannot determine what additional instructions we need to include on the forms until everyone submits their data. Our deadline of November is to allow for faster turnaround with new form development but that was significantly delayed this year. We have been gathering data up until barely two weeks before the conference trying to include all schools in our numbers. This data, once it has been put into beautiful graphs, is shared with our community partners including the public school systems and Department of Education to demonstrate the efficacy and quality of our VAISEF schools. It is imperative you ensure the data you provide is accurate and timely to enable us to best represent your needs in our presentations. Please make this a priority next fall. Dave Blaiklock will be sharing a cursory overview of what this year's information shows at the Spring Conference.

Our next publication will be what **YOU** can do with the data we collect. Stay tuned!

One Year Follow-up Surveys

In conjunction with the discharged student data, we are rolling out a standardized one year follow up survey for all students pursuant to Accreditation Standard 16.2. If we collect the same data from every school and aggregate our findings, we can correlate our post-discharge outcomes with other state and national longitudinal studies that track successes of students. The Department of Education also requires follow up data from the public school divisions which gives us a comparison of how well we prepare our students for transition versus the public schools. Data from other studies has shown that our students fare better and we would like to document that through our own collection of facts.

SOL Performance Data

The Committee is exploring the voluntary collection of SOL performance data from schools with a more diploma track population of special education students. Often we hear that our schools are not as academically rigorous as other private schools or public options and we would like to compile some data to dispute that claim. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help with this demonstration to join Rivermont and Kellar. Our goal is to lump all participating programs together and compare our SOL results with published statewide data available on the DOE website.

Transcripts

Our other big project in the works is the standardization of VAISEF school transcripts. With the advent of so many changes in diploma requirements to include career and technical education, online courses, etc. transcripts can be very confusing especially for students with a more haphazard academic career such as ours. To pick up a transcript from a VAISEF residential program, a day school would know instantly where to look for critical aspects and if they have been covered already by the previous placement.

Next

We are looking at ways to share best practices among programs to include hosting regional showcases, increasing presentations of our collected data to state stakeholders, examining alternate means to demonstrate quality educational and support programming, and developing an archive to document VAISEF's journey toward excellence.

Ways and Means Committee Semi-Annual Report

Spring 2014

Members:

Chair: Grey Martin, The Barry Robinson Center
Marc Columbus, Little Keswick School
Gary Jones, Youth For Tomorrow
James M. McGee, Rivermont School
Eli Newcomb, The Faison School for Autism
Darren Pfaff, Rivermont School

The Ways and Means Committee has overseen a number of operational activities:

- *Membership Definition* – The committee continues to oversee the implementation of the new “systems membership” in VAISEF that was approved for the 2013-2014 membership year. The committee is monitoring the impact this change has in our dues structure, as well as on the members in question.
- *Strategic Plan Implementation* – The committee continues to address its charges within the VAISEF strategic plan. This has primarily included oversight of the Technology Committee and proposing any necessary changes to the Association’s By-Laws to address the composition and functions of the Board and Committees.
- *Alternative Revenue* – Continued management of non-dues revenue sources, including Partlow Insurance, All-A-Board Furniture and Optima Health, to help provide VAISEF with additional resources to provide quality services to its members.
- *Insurance Subcommittee* – The Insurance Subcommittee continues to work directly with representatives from Partlow Insurance Agency to ensure that the association is taking full advantage of our partnership.
- *Fiscal Monitoring* - The committee continues to monitor the financial operations of VAISEF and is exploring avenues to enhance the management of our investments in an efficient and prudent manner. The 2014-2015 dues assessment cycle will be starting in June, so please pay attention to any communication from the VAISEF office over the summer!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

2013 Fall Conference and Membership Meeting

October 25, 2013 – Elk Hill, Goochland, Virginia

Membership Meeting Minutes

Present:

Bridges Treatment Center; Cray Callahan
Brook Road Academy; Maureen Mauck
Elk Hill; Michael Farley, Ron Spears, Wade Puryear
Hallmark Youthcare; Lynn Quash
HopeTree Academy; Tommy Barber, Maxine Casey, Karen McCoy
Jackson Feild Homes; Jeremy Mercantel
Kempsville Center for Behavioral Health; Renatta Marble
Kids In Focus; Jennifer McGuire
Lafayette School and Treatment Center; Barret Stump, Chuck Stump
Liberty Point Behavioral Health; Kristen Sabo
LIFES Academy; Cheryl Cobbs
Little Keswick School; Marc Columbus, Mark Kindler
Matthew's Center; Kim Collet, Keith King
Metropolitan Day School of AES; Sheila Green
Minnick Schools; Ashley Wittl
Newport News Behavioral Healthcare; Michael Rogers
North Spring Behavioral Healthcare; Fredericka Harris
Northstar Academy; Anita Philp
Oakland School; Peter Cormons
Oakwood School; Lane McIntyre
Pathways Day School; Barbara Tune
Phillips Programs; David Blaiklock
Rivermont School; Jim McGee, Brian Summo, Jennifer Younger
Specialized Youth Services of Virginia; Warren Bull
The Aurora School; Courtney Vaughn, Kendra McDonald
The Discovery School of Virginia; Mark Mellusi, Chip Case
The Dominion School; James Weaver
The Faison School for Autism; Eli Newcomb
The Gladys H. Oberle School; Nathaniel Ferguson
The Kellar School at INOVA Kellar Center; Amy Hartwsick, Kate Russell
Timber Ridge School; John Lamanna, Karen Tompkins
Village Academy of Childhelp; Michael Mahr
Virginia Home for Boys and Girls; Katherine Means
Virginia Institute of Autism, Rorie Hutter
White Oak School; Lynn Bezue
Youth For Tomorrow; Gary Jones, Ed Tabish
Elwood Consulting, Bill Elwood & Matthew Stanley
Partlow Insurance; John Markwood
Virginia Department of Education, Carolyn White Hodgins & Judith McKinney

Call To Order

- VAISEF President Ron Spears called the Fall Semi-Annual Membership meeting to order at 1:15 PM. A quorum was recorded as present.

Partlow Best Practices Award Presentation

- Dr. John Markwood of Partlow Insurance was introduced and spoke about the criteria for the 2014 award. Dr. Markwood then announced the winner of the 2013 Partlow Best Practices Award to Little Keswick School and presented it to Dr. Mark Kindler. Dr. Kindler accepted the award and spoke briefly about their best practice in bullying prevention submission.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the Spring 2013 Membership Meeting Minutes as presented was duly made by Michael Farley, seconded by Gary Jones, and approved.

Presentation of Accreditations or Reaccreditations

- On behalf of the Accreditation Committee, Warren Bull presented certificates to Pathways Day School for a new accreditation and to Riverside School for a reaccreditation.

Presentation of New Members

- Mark Mellusi and Barret Stump presented certificates of membership to two new VAISEF members; Aurora Day School and LIFES Academy.

Virginia Department of Education Update

- President Spears introduced the leadership and staff from the Virginia Department of Education, including the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education John Eisenberg, the Director of Federal Program Monitoring Dr. Sandra Ruffin, and specialists Carolyn White Hodgins and Dr. Judith McKinney.
- Ms. Hodgins reported on the documents provided to members and then turned the floor to Assistant Superintendent Eisenberg.
- Mr. Eisenberg started by presenting a video on bullying that the VDOE has produced and is available on their website. Following the video presentation, he addressed the membership and commented on the importance of the relationship between the VDOE and VAISEF and how that relationship will allow Virginia to be recognized as the best state in the nation for serving the educational needs of children with disabilities. He then noted that the regulations for private schools for students with disabilities were still in the Attorney General's office and that the department was following them closely and hoping that we might see the current Governor approve them before his term ended.
- Mr. Eisenberg engaged members in a comment and question period. Topics discussed included success stories of students in VAISEF programs, parental placements in residential facilities for non-educational reasons, credit accommodations for students with disabilities to achieve standard diplomas, recent improvement in communications with local special education directors, the statutory requirement for epi-pens, and other topics.
- Mr. Eisenberg made closing remarks and reminded VAISEF that his door is always open and he looks forward to continued partnership.

Quality Services Committee Report

- Amy Hartswick gave an update on the outcomes survey process currently underway and reminded members to be sure to make sure their contact forms have been submitted.
- Ms. Hartswick also noted the work the committee is taking on related to providing more information to members on new diploma requirements.

Government Affairs Committee Report

- David Blaiklock spoke about recent projects of the Government Affairs Committee and the legislator day that is being planned. He further reviewed the proposed legislative policy agenda that the committee has prepared.
- Bill Elwood gave a political update regarding the statewide and House of Delegates election.

Board of Directors Vacancy Appointment Approval

- Bill Elwood presented the list of individuals that had been appointed to the VAISEF Board of Directors.
- A motion to approve the appointments was duly made by Sheila Green, seconded by Lane McIntyre, and approved.

Membership Services Committee Report

- Brian Summo announced the spring conference to be held in Virginia Beach on April 9-11, 2013.

Free Conference Registration

- Lynn Bezue won free registration for the 2014 Spring Conference.

Adjournment

- After making closing remarks and thanking appropriate individuals for their contributions, Ron Spears adjourned the Membership Meeting at 2:30 PM.