

# Celebrating All Abilities Virginia



WINTER 2020

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## Beginning an Important Year

The Impeachment Trial of President Trump has been on the TV/radio/social media for the past week; I have been watching and listening as I work on this newsletter. I'll spare you my personal opinion of the proceedings except to say that whatever the outcome of the trial, I believe that this is a critically important year to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote....does just that - **Vote!**

To that end, I'll be including in every issue this year reminders of how to make sure that your name is still on the voter rolls; that it hasn't been removed for address change, or not voting in previous elections, or whatever other various reasons that are out there.

Remember, too, that Virginia will also hold elections for U.S. Senators and Congresspersons as well as many downstate positions. I am already volunteering in my district and I invite you to do the same. Don't assume that because you may have a disability that you can't help. You can contact your local political campaign and just speak up. Believe me, they want to hear from you! I, personally, can't walk to canvass, but I can drive, and I can write postcards and stuff envelopes.

I'll also be looking and listening for stories and information about ways that people with disabilities have been or can be "discouraged," from participating in the political process.

We've come so far over the past decades, it's vitally important that we stick together now.

Stay strong and see you in the Spring!

*Laura Nelson, Editor*



This year, I'll working on an article that highlights **Seclusion and Restraint issues** in the public schools. I'll be including a review of the relevant literature as well as hoping to find situations that were resolved in addition to those that remain unresolved.

I invite you to send me your story. You will remain anonymous and no identifying features will be used.

Contact me at

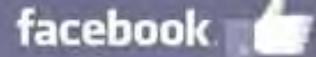
*Laura Nelson, Editor* · [CelebratingAllAbilities@gmail.com](mailto:CelebratingAllAbilities@gmail.com)

WINTER 2020

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## ~ FOUND ON FACEBOOK ~



The WeWALK smart cane was born from a visually impaired engineer named Kursat Ceylan. he created the WeWALK in hopes of changing the lives of the blind.

This innovative cane includes a built-in speakers, voice assistance, Google Maps, a Bluetooth system that makes syncing to other devices possible, and high-end sensors that alerts the user through vibrations when above chest level obstacles are within proximity—something a regular cane cannot provide.

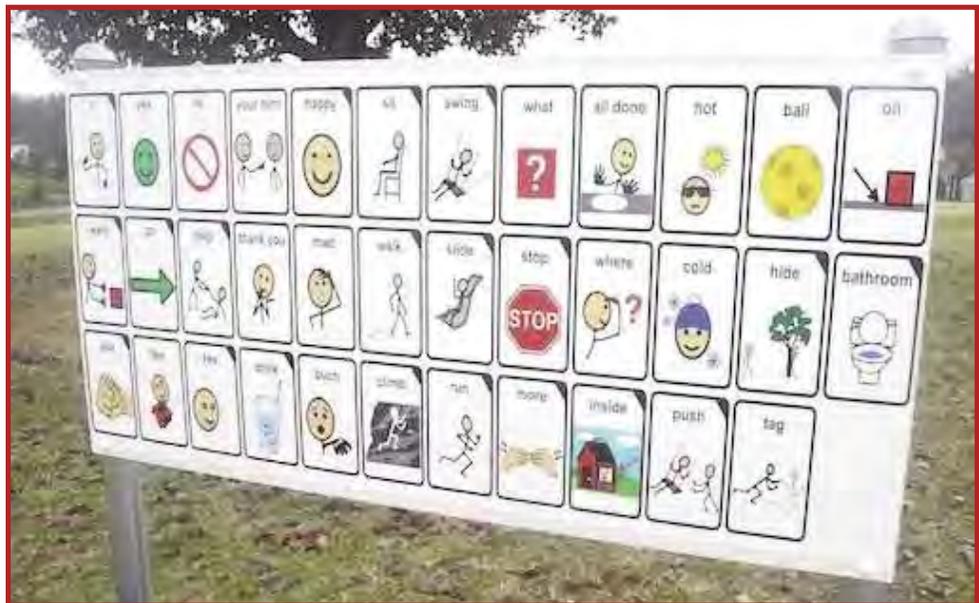
[www.facebook.com/wewalkio](http://www.facebook.com/wewalkio)

This communication board stands at the Morningside Elementary School playground in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

The communication board is used to help nonverbal students communicate during recess.

The communication board is being used in numerous schools in the area.

**The News Enterprise**  
[thenewsenterprise.com](http://thenewsenterprise.com)



### ***Nashville airport holding 'mock flights' to help kids with autism practice traveling***

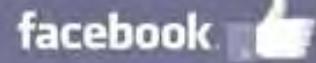
Kaylin Jorge • Thursday, September 12, 2019

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WZTV) — 'Mock flights' to help kids with autism and developmental disabilities practice real travel experiences was held at the Nashville International Airport this weekend.

A news release says this will give families the opportunity to have kids with autism or developmental disabilities experience a "realistic flight journey" to practice certain touchpoints, like the security checkpoint and boarding a plane.



## ~ FOUND ON FACEBOOK ~



### ***Kudos to Mattel,***

which collaborated with Jordan Reeves, a 13-year-old disability activist who was born without a left forearm, to create the doll with the prosthetic limb, which can be removed for a "more realistic" play experience. The toymaker also worked with UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and wheelchair experts to design a wheelchair, which the company said has been one of the most requested accessories from Barbie fans.

"While there are many types of wheelchairs, this chair is modeled after one that is designed for an individual who has a permanent physical disability," Mattel said in a statement.



### ***Medical Alert Seat Belt Covers***

This seat belt cover is designed to alert authorities to children's health issues or disabilities in an emergency and was inspired by Natalie's own daughter who has a cochlear implant.

Natalie Bell, from Victoria, Australia, shared her life-saving creation on her page, *Personalised by Nat* after being inspired by her daughter.

<https://personalisedbynat.com>

'I always wondered what would happen if I was in a car accident with my daughter in the car and I was unable to let the doctors know that my daughter could not have a MRI due to having a cochlear implant,' she wrote.



**Options for this colorful belt include personalizing the message.**

[www.etsy.com/listing/609234823/autism-non-verbal-help-belts-medical](http://www.etsy.com/listing/609234823/autism-non-verbal-help-belts-medical)

### ***Playground in Richmond has wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round***

Introducing PARK365's newest feature: a specially designed wheelchair carousel!

Accessible at ground level, the Goric Integration Carousel can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. It accommodates up to two wheelchairs at a time that are protected by safety bars.

The carousel can be rotated by pushing or pulling from the outside or by turning the stationary turn-table in the middle of the carousel, which is accessible to those in wheelchairs.

<https://www.soar365.org/park365>



# "Families to Families"

Gatherings for families with  
young deaf and  
hard of hearing children

[www.families2families.weebly.com](http://www.families2families.weebly.com)



- Bring your entire family for a morning of fun activities.
- All are welcome including parents, siblings, grandparents, extended family members and deaf families with deaf and/or hearing children.
- See old friends, make new friends and share resources.

2020 Winter and Spring Schedule - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month  
The Church of the Good Shepherd, 10AM - Noon

Sat., January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

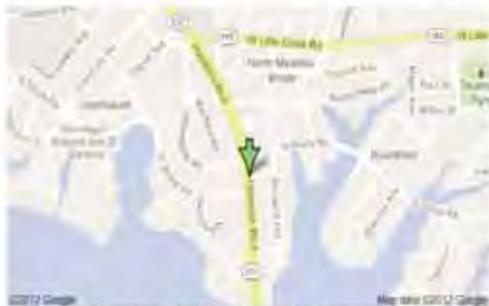
Sat., February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Sat., March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 PEATC will present the workshop, "Ins & Outs of IEPs". Register at <https://insandoutsiepnorfolk.eventbrite.com>

Sat., April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Be sure to check our website! Schedule is subject to change.

[www.families2families.weebly.com](http://www.families2families.weebly.com)



Church of the Good Shepherd  
7400 Hampton Blvd.  
Norfolk, Virginia 23505

Questions and to RSVP for F2F please contact

Lizzy Allen  
757-651-4575  
[lizzyad@msn.com](mailto:lizzyad@msn.com)  
or  
Melinda Gallagher  
757-802-3167 (vp),  
757-701-8156 (text),  
[mkgallagher@gmail.com](mailto:mkgallagher@gmail.com)

## THE ELEMENTS OF I'm Determined



**Region 1 I'm Determined Academy**  
**February 29, 2020**  
**CTC@Hull Street Road, Midlothian VA, 23112**  
**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
**Light Lunch will be provided**

Region 1 school systems in partnership with the Training and Technical Assistance Center at VCU is pleased to invite you to the Region One I'm Determined Academy at CTC@Hull, Chesterfield, Virginia. Youth with disabilities from across the VDOE Superintendent's Region One will meet to identify ways to become better advocates and lead more self-determined lives.

- Join us to meet Agencies that can help your student transition to Life After High School
- Parents will participate in sessions that will help them navigate the future for their child with a disability
- Students will be challenged with the elements of problem solving skills, critical thinking skills and collaboration while making new friends from all around the Central Virginia Area.

**We are inviting transition aged youth and their parents to apply to attend using the link below. Hope to see you there!**



**Participating Region 1 Counties include: Charles City, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, Prince George, and Richmond.**

**If you live in one of these areas and are interested in applying, please contact your student's school case manager to access the application.**

# Building better futures for Virginia's Children!



## Winter 2020 Transition University Virtual Training Sun, Feb 16, 2020, 8:00 PM ~ Mon, Mar 30, 2020, 5:00 PM EST

*5-session self-paced online series to help parents/guardians navigate the transition process for their school age child and prepare for the adult world.*

Life is full of transitions. For families of children with disabilities thinking about the future can bring mixed emotions. Some families are just trying to make it through day-to-day challenges and might not feel they have the energy to think about what happens after high school. Others may want to plan for that transition, but are confused by unfamiliar language, complex steps, and the many agencies that may be involved in adult services.

Join us for this FREE 5-week SELF-PACED online course that focuses on providing parent-friendly transition information to help make transition planning easier. This course is designed for parents/caregivers of elementary, middle or high school students that receive special education services, but is open to everyone. The goal is to share factual information on transition services and to help make the transition from school services to the adult services world less confusing.

### Topics covered in this course will include:

- ◆ What is Transition and Why is it Important?
- ◆ Transition Services in the IEP
- ◆ Supported Decision Making, Power of Attorney, Guardianship and Age of Majority
- ◆ Future planning including Special Needs Trusts, ABLE accounts and Letters of Intent
- ◆ Transitioning into Independent Living (employment, further education, housing, etc.)
- ◆ Connecting to Your Community and to Adult Services - and much more!

*The course begins February 16, 2020 and will be open until March 30, 2020. Each session will open on Sunday and be open the remainder of the course.*

*Sessions contain video content, written content, discussion opportunities and resources.*

WWW.PEATC.ORG

[www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-2020-transition-university-virtual-training-registration-80298973391](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-2020-transition-university-virtual-training-registration-80298973391)



**The First Annual Community for ALL weekend will be celebrated on:**

**Saturday, February 29 – Sunday, March 1, 2020**

Community for All (C4A) is a unified effort among faith communities and disability organizations to raise awareness and foster acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities and those who love them.

For more information about how your faith community can celebrate **Community for All** or your organization or business can endorse or support the initiative, please contact Karen Jackson at [faithinclusionnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:faithinclusionnetwork@gmail.com)

**Community for ALL Website Page:**

<https://www.faithinclusionnetwork.org/community-for-all/>

**Community for ALL Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FINCommunityforALL/>

Be sure to let us know if your congregation is going to celebrate C4A. We will list your faith community, organization or business on our website and share your efforts on our Facebook Page.

# 2020 PRESIDENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE ON DISABILITY POLICIES



**NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

For Immediate Release: August 1, 2019  
Contact: Keri Gray, (202) 521-4310, kgray@aapd.com

*Dear Presidential Candidate:*

In 2020, approximately 23% of the American electorate — over 35 million individuals — will be people with disabilities. As people with disabilities, we want to live independent lives and contribute our talent and energy to the future success of our great nation. There are over 60 million Americans with disabilities who make remarkable and valuable contributions to our communities.

Despite these contributions and despite our numbers, Americans with disabilities continue to face discrimination in many arenas including employment, housing, transportation, health care, and education. Candidates for public office must address these disparities and set forth a vision to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities and our full inclusion in society.

In an effort to inform our community of your disability policy positions, initiatives, and priorities, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), and the REV UP Campaign have developed this presidential candidate questionnaire. We believe the issues addressed in this questionnaire are vital to ensuring all individuals with disabilities have an opportunity to achieve the American Dream and therefore we request your response.

We greatly appreciate your time and attention to our concerns. If you have any questions, please contact Keri Gray, Sr. Director, AAPD, 202-521-4310, kgray@aapd.com or Sarah Blahovec, Disability Vote Organizer, NCIL, 724-309-5182, sarah@ncil.org.

We look forward to sharing your responses with the 35 million eligible voters of the disability community!

To see full questionnaire, visit  
[www.aapd.com/press-releases/2020-presidential-questionnaire/](http://www.aapd.com/press-releases/2020-presidential-questionnaire/)



As a national cross-disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the 50+ million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation.  
[www.aapd.org](http://www.aapd.org)



NCIL advances independent living and the rights of people with disabilities. NCIL envisions a world in which people with disabilities are valued equally and participate fully.  
<https://ncil.org>



# Governor Northam Signs Sweeping Executive Actions to Expand Opportunities for Virginians with Disabilities

**RICHMOND—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · January 2, 2020**

Governor Ralph Northam today issued Executive Order Forty-Seven and Executive Directive Six, the most comprehensive executive actions in Virginia history to ensure inclusion and opportunity for Virginians with disabilities.

Executive Order Forty-Seven and Executive Directive Six continue the equal employment initiatives outlined by former Governor Terry McAuliffe in a 2015 executive order. In addition, these executive actions dramatically expand the scope of support for Virginians with disabilities to increase opportunity in higher education, improve the accessibility of state services, and ensure continued stakeholder engagement.

“Virginians with disabilities have an absolute right to the same benefits of society and freedoms of everyday life that all people enjoy,” said Governor Northam. “These executive actions highlight our commitment to ensuring

every Virginian has access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive in our Commonwealth.”

Executive Order Forty-Seven ensures employment equity for Virginians with disabilities by prioritizing hiring and workforce diversity in state government. To expand educational opportunity, it directs the Secretary of Education to explore ways to increase active participation in advanced training and higher education programs. It also directs the Virginia Information Technologies Agency to review state websites and technology services, to increase accessibility and ensure all Virginians can benefit from the state services and support they need.

“True and genuine inclusion is only achieved by addressing systems of inequity—therefore it requires intentional collaboration and comprehensive action,” said Dr. Janice Underwood, the Commonwealth’s first-ever Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. “Today’s executive actions not only facilitate opportunity for Virginians with disabilities, they represent a bold step towards a

Commonwealth that is truly open, inclusive, and equitable for all.”

Virginia also continues to prioritize the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* by Zimring, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) decision, and the Virginians with Disabilities Act. Executive Directive Six continues the Community Integration Implementation Team (CIIT) to ensure the Commonwealth is providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to become fully integrated into the community if they choose.

Finally, Executive Order Forty-Seven works to maintain a continued focus on Virginians with disabilities. It requires the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to convene regular meetings with relevant stakeholders, providing an opportunity for future feedback and ensuring Virginians with disabilities have an ongoing voice within state government.

###

*Office of the Governor*  
*Alena.Yarmosky@governor.virginia.gov*

**ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED**  
Brought to you by The League of Women Voters Education Fund

- Register to Vote
- Check Your Voter Registration Status
- Find What's on Your Ballot

**PERSONALIZED VOTING INFORMATION**

- ✓ Identify your local ballot
- ✓ Check your voter registration
- ✓ Find out what's on your ballot
- ✓ Discover your voting location & hours
- ✓ Ask for help

**Enter your address at the links below for more information**

**Register to vote ~**  
<https://www.vote411.org/register>

**Check your voter registration status ~**  
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

**Find out what on Your Ballot**

**<https://www.vote411.org>**



★ VIRGINIA ★  
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

Everything you need to know to vote in Virginia  
[www.elections.virginia.gov/index.html](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/index.html)



***You will need to show one acceptable photo identification card (photo ID) whenever you vote in person. This is Virginia law for all voters.***

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote. Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired.

***Acceptable forms of valid identification:***

- Virginia driver's license
- Virginia DMV-issued photo ID
- United States passport
- Employer-issued photo ID
- Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia
- Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID
- Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID
- Virginia Voter Photo ID card

***Need a photo ID?***

If you don't have an ID, simply go to your nearest voter registration office to get a free Voter Photo ID, even on Election Day! You will be required to complete a photo ID application, have your photo taken and to sign a digital signature pad.

***Forgot your photo ID on Election Day?***

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

***How and where can I register to vote?***

Any person, regardless of their disability status, has the right to register to vote at any office or agency that provides such a service. These offices include but are not limited to: Department of Health (VDH), Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS), Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Department for the Deaf and Hard of

Hearing (VDDHH), and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI). Your local Registrar's Office also has registration forms and should be able to accommodate any special need.



***Accessibility***

***Is curbside voting still available for those who wish to use it?***

Yes, curbside voting is still available for people ages 65 and older, or any person with a physical disability. The voter shall be afforded every opportunity to vote in a private and independent fashion, but voting equipment must remain in the view of the election officers.

***Will I be able to get into the polling place on my own?***

Federal and state laws mandate that all polling places, including all locations for in-person absentee voting, must be fully accessible to elderly voters and voters with disabilities; state law further requires curbside voting be available at all these locations for voters age 65 or over or with physical disabilities. See above discussion of curbside voting.

Voters with continuing disabilities may apply annually to receive absentee ballots for all elections within a given year using the Annual Absentee Ballot Application.

***Is the voting equipment in my polling place going to be accessible?***

State law and federal law (the Help America Vote Act) require every polling location in Virginia must be equipped with at least one accessible voting system that will allow all voters with a disability to vote the same private and independent manner as a voter without a disability.

***I understand that with the changes in elections services I should not need assistance from anyone, but can I still have assistance if I wish to?***

Yes, you can. If any voter who requires assistance in voting

due to a physical disability or inability to read or write can receive assistance if they request it. Any of the officers of election can advise you of your rights in this area.

### ***Are people with cognitive disabilities allowed to register and vote?***

Yes. A registered voter with cognitive disabilities can be eligible to vote if not adjudicated mentally incapacitated by a court of law.

### ***What if I feel that my rights to accessible registration and voting have been violated?***

Please document your complaint using the Voter Complaints area of our website. You may also contact your voter registrar or electoral board locally or the Department's Accessibility Coordinator Terry Wagoner at (804) 864-8937 or [terry.wagoner@elections.virginia.gov](mailto:terry.wagoner@elections.virginia.gov). Contact information for your local voting administration can be found using our online tool at <https://elections.virginia.gov/LocalGR>.



## Additional Resources

### **• *The Americans with Disabilities Act and Other Federal Laws ~ Protecting the Rights of Voters with Disabilities***

Posted on U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division – Disability Rights Section  
[www.ada.gov/ada\\_voting/ada\\_voting\\_fa.htm](http://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/ada_voting_fa.htm)

### **• *Resources for Voters with Disabilities***

Page on U.S. Election Assistance Commission with many relevant resources, both statewide and national.  
<https://www.eac.gov/voters/resources-for-voters-with-disabilities>

### **• *ADA Checklist for Polling Places***

This document is an updated technical assistance publication on polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities. The publication includes information about key areas of a facility that must be accessible to voters with mobility or vision disabilities, options for low-cost temporary measures for removing barriers, and a survey to guide election officials in evaluating the accessibility of facilities used or being considered for use as polling places.  
[www.ada.gov/votingck.htm](http://www.ada.gov/votingck.htm)



# VOTE SMART

## JUST THE FACTS

*Vote Smart's mission is to provide free, factual, unbiased information on candidates and elected officials to ALL Americans.*

<https://votesmart.org>

### ***The Voter's Self-Defense System (Partial list)***

Every candidate and elected official from President to local government can be easily and instantly accessed through the Voter's Self-Defense System:



#### **Voting Records – [https://votesmart.org/bills#.WezgrBR\\_Jno](https://votesmart.org/bills#.WezgrBR_Jno)**

Vote Smart digests key legislation in Congress and all 50 states into easy-to-understand summaries, making it easy to compare what your representatives said during the campaign with how they actually voted on the record.



#### **Biographical & Contact Information – [https://votesmart.org/search#.Wezh9BR\\_Jno](https://votesmart.org/search#.Wezh9BR_Jno)**

From their previous professions, education, family life, and organizational memberships to their social media accounts and latest email addresses.



#### **Issue Positions (Political Courage Test) – [https://votesmart.org/about/political-courage-test#.WeziPhR\\_Jno](https://votesmart.org/about/political-courage-test#.WeziPhR_Jno)**

We test thousands of candidates for President, Congress, Governor and State Legislature with our Political Courage Test. The Test accurately measures candidates' willingness to provide voters with their positions on the issues they will most likely face if elected.



#### **Interest Group Ratings – <https://votesmart.org/interest-groups>**

See how over 400 national and 1300 state special interest groups evaluate your representatives. Despite their bias, special interest group ratings can help indicate where an incumbent has stood on a particular set of issues.



#### **Campaign Finances – [https://votesmart.org/search#.WejRRR\\_Jno](https://votesmart.org/search#.WejRRR_Jno)**

How much money did your representatives raise and from whom?

<https://votesmart.org>



## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities Announces New Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 8, 2020

Richmond, Va. – The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities is pleased to announce Ms. Teri Morgan as the Board's new Executive Director, effective January 25, 2020.

Morgan has spent the past 30 years of her career learning from and supporting individuals with disabilities. Morgan formerly worked in Michigan for a private non-profit residential services provider, first as a Residential Counselor and later as a Residential Supervisor of a community based ICF/IID. After moving to Richmond, she continued her work in residential services managing and overseeing an array of home and community-based services.

"We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Morgan after a long and thorough search process," said Dr. Ethel Parris Gainer, the Board's Chair. "She will bring a wealth of experience in disability and advocacy to our already amazing staff and will do a fantastic job leading our agency as we begin the new decade."

In 2001, Morgan transitioned to state government and worked for the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities as a Program Manager. During this time, she managed the Board's Partners in Policymaking and Youth Leadership Forum (now Youth Leadership Academy) programs and supported a Board committee and the related grants and policy work of that committee.

Most recently, Morgan has served as the Developmental Disabilities Program Manager with the Department of Medical Assistance Services.

"It was an honor to be selected as the Board's new Executive Director and I'm thrilled to get started with this great agency," said Morgan. "We have a lot of work ahead of us!"

"Ms. Morgan has a well-established history of working with individuals with disabilities, stakeholders and with other state agencies," said John Cimino, the Board's Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director. "Her expertise in disability services and previous experience with the Board will be invaluable moving forward in the busy 2020 legislative session and beyond."

Morgan holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Management from Western Governors University. She lives in Montpelier with her husband and dogs and enjoys spending time with family and friends. The Board serves as the Developmental Disabilities Council, addressing the needs of people with developmental disabilities as established under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the Virginians with Disabilities Act.

###

*Benjamin Jarvela, Communications Director*

*Email: [benjamin.jarvela@vbpd.virginia.gov](mailto:benjamin.jarvela@vbpd.virginia.gov) • Phone: 804-786-1146  
[www.vaboard.org](http://www.vaboard.org)*



### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR YLA 2020

The Youth Leadership Academy is an exciting new opportunity for rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with disabilities to participate in customized learning and fun through personal and career, advocacy, and leadership development activities.

Only 25 students will be selected through a highly-competitive application process, but those lucky students will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop themselves and make brand new lifelong friends!

Delegates will learn directly from peer mentors and successful adult role models while they work on their own personal leadership plans, enhance their communications skills, visit the state capitol, have a chance to speak directly to state legislators and policymakers,

and much more! Best of all, all expenses are paid by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, including food and lodging!

The 2020 Youth Leadership Academy will take place on the campus of Virginia State University from July 13-16, 2020. Participation is limited and applications will only be accepted through March 27, 2020.

**For more information, visit [www.vaboard.org/YLA.htm](http://www.vaboard.org/YLA.htm)**

## Your Input is Needed on the development of the next State Plan for Independent Living, 2021-2023!

Please take our survey at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XB5NMR>

### Who We Are

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is an independent planning body working with the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to increase the impact of Independent Living (IL) services in Virginia. The SILC is composed of gubernatorial appointees who represent people with significant disabilities across the state, the interests of CILs, and Independent Living programs and services.

### What We Do

We are responsible for the development and implementation of the Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL, which is required by Section 704 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, is updated on a triennial basis and delineates specific objectives and timelines for ensuring that the Commonwealth is providing the appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address the needs of citizen with disabilities for independent living services.

For more information, visit  
[www.vasilc.org](http://www.vasilc.org)



*Look for the next issue of Celebrating All Abilities to be posted during the Spring 2020.*

I'll working for the next few months on an article that highlights **Seclusion and Restraint issues**. I'll be including a review of the relevant literature as well as situations that were resolved in addition to those that remain unresolved. I invite you to send me your story. You will remain anonymous and no identifying features will be used.

Contact me at [CelebratingAllAbilities@gmail.com](mailto:CelebratingAllAbilities@gmail.com)  
*Laura Nelson, Editor*