



BPRO VSSLE Board Report 01/27/11

Our last meeting was held in Williamsburg, VA during our 2010 Fall Conference. Several items were discussed during this meeting. Cathy Pemberton gave us updates on legislative issues for the 2011 General Assembly session. We voted to give out lifetime memberships to long standing members who were retiring. We also voted to eliminate the registration fees for our lifetime members who attend and work the conference. Our 20th anniversary celebration was discussed. The celebration will be held during our 2012 Spring Conference. At this time, it looks like this conference will be held jointly with the League in the Eastern region. PD elections should be winding down with reports due back to the Board at our next meeting which will be held on February 2, 2011 at Portsmouth DSS. We will be sponsoring the St. Jude project of collecting used holiday cards for recycling. The children of St. Jude receive payment for their work and they also learn about the importance of going "green". We are still looking for a chairperson for our Archives committee which is essential for the anniversary celebration. February 2011 will be "Benefit Program Appreciation Month" as declared by the State Board in 10/10; please celebrate your staff and their many accomplishments. The membership roll is currently standing at 650. Effective January 1, 2011 all new membership applications are discounted 50% or \$12.50. The application for membership can be found by accessing our website at www.bpro.us.

The Spring Conference will be held April 27-29, 2011 at the Hilton Hotel, located in Short Pump in Richmond, VA. The room rate is \$87.00 per night. A "Save the Date" flyer was handed out during the Fall Conference. The registration fee for members will be approximately \$90.00 for early registration and \$100.00 for late registration with an additional \$25.00 for non-members. We will continue to focus conferences on policy and procedural trainings. We do hope to offer scholarships which will help to cover the registration cost. We will be requesting scholarship funds from the State to help supplement this conference expense for BPRO. We will again be offering the "one day" registration. We are anticipating that this registration fee will be \$50.00. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this option as the conference will be held in the Central Region and a day trip is quite feasible for most members.

The Certification Project remains one of our major undertakings and we are working very hard to see successful implementation. The preconference workshop held at Fall Conference by Professor Anne Andrews of Thomas Nelson Community College was very informative and engaging. We hope to hold another workshop at the Spring Conference where we can give more updates on the status of courses of the 6 courses being offered at this time and distance learning. All of the courses are being offered as distance learning courses which mean the courses are virtual can be taken on-line. Any of the courses can be taken at any community college that offers them but the majority has to be taken thru Thomas Nelson in order for the student to be awarded the degree. Feedback from

membership and POSSESS has shown at least 50 people interested in the curriculum. Remember this is the entry level and is geared towards those wanting to move into eligibility, and those with no college course work but who may be employed in the field. We have completed a “white paper” for the League for potential funding for members or anyone wanting to take the courses being offered. Special thanks are given to Claudette Henderson of Richmond County DSS and Paul Oswell of Essex DSS for their guidance and forethought in helping us pursue these efforts.

During these past few months the state has reached out to us and the League for any ideas we can offer to better the job either for training or workload simplification. We were able to offer some suggestions to the State office via Walter Burton, in reference to training on curriculum development and delivery, technical support, a comprehensive training record system and the evaluation process. Hopefully, the State will use some of these ideas to better the current system and make some modifications where possible. We are currently working with Skip Steinhauser and his staff as well as Carl Ayers and Cathy Pemberton on “Efficiency and Effectiveness” meetings to try to simplify or align policy and procedures. These efforts on all of our parts are very encouraging and show where we must work more unified to help the citizens of the Commonwealth with the basic needs for everyday living.

We want to thank each agency for their support during these hard times and understand that our directors and localities are doing all they can for us and also that they understand the work we face each day.

Respectfully Submitted:

Faye Owhin, BPRO President