

**Prince William County Disability Services Board Needs Assessment
Summary Sheet 2006**

Disability Commission Core Areas	Priority Ranking	Identified Needs	Barriers to meeting the needs	Outcomes/Future Efforts
Transportation	1	Lack of sufficient accessible transportation, door-to-door services and para-transit.	Additional funding for public bus & train service, no funding for door-to-door service. Private para-transit services are needed.	CIL (local IEC) awarded RSIF grant to meet transportation needs. This grant was frozen in Oct. 2002; advocate reinstating this grant for FY07. Advocate missing services to local officials. Support Human Services Transportation Committee in efforts to increase services provided by Prince William Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers.
Medical and Therapeutic Services	2	Dental Services, prescription coverage, physical & vocational therapy and affordable medical insurances	Prescription not covered under Medicaid, Medicare, SSD, Dental services beyond extractions are desperately needed. Physical therapy for stroke victims and those with disabling illnesses.	Advocate state level action for those unable to obtain medical, dental and therapeutic services. Support and refer to local services such as county free health clinic, dental services and prescription programs. Advocate for expansion of public transportation system (PRTC) to George Mason Freedom Center where therapeutic programs are offered.
Housing	3	Affordable, subsidized and accessible housing.	Housing in the area is expensive and rental assistance voucher has a list of over 2,500. Wheelchair ramps and home modifications are needed, especially bathroom grab bars, ramps etc. Project Mend A House waiting list continues to grow.	DSB supports the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) in efforts to obtain more mainstream vouchers. DSB was successful in advocating for the creation and implementation of a new system of local preferences for rental assistance applicants with disabilities. Support CIL in efforts of case management in finding affordable, accessible housing. RSIF grant to Project Mend A House for wheelchair ramps and home modifications to provide accessibility. This grant was frozen in Oct. 2002; advocate reinstating this grant for FY07.
Family Support	4	Respite care for family members. Need for more hours of service, need for administering medications, help getting out of house.	Limited resources through Medicaid and DRS. Many respondents pay for their own personal assistants, or rely on family and friends.	ARC, Greater Insight offers a volunteer relief respite care program. Provide resource/referral information of agencies, churches etc. that provides services. Advocate on the state level to increase funding and expanding services for PAS.

Case Management	5	Computers, hearing aids, wheelchairs, TTY, Braille materials, etc.	DRS offers services for those who are able to return to work. Community Services Board (CSB) and Area on Aging (AAA) offers case management. Some with multi-disabilities are covered under these agencies. CIL, (local IEC) is offering case management.	Continue to Support IEC, CSB and AAA through referral and resource information.
Counseling	5	Professional help with personal and vocational problems.	State budget cuts to CSB and Brain Injury Services directly impacted services. Case Management available to those who are elderly or through CSB, mental health. Missing services for those with physical and sensory disabilities. Several participants noted they needed counseling for depression.	Services are available through CSB, ACTS, SERVE, Northern Virginia Family Services and other agencies and local churches.
Employment	5	20% of respondents are employed. 40% unemployed and 26% are retired	Health conditions, loss of benefits – i.e.: SSD, SSI, proper training and education	DRS, One Stop Centers and several local agencies provide vocational training and employment services. Public awareness campaign for potential employers through the Disability Friendly Business Program. This program acknowledges those employers promoting accessibility and accommodations in the workplace.
Independent Living Services	6	Training & Services to achieve Independent Living	Funding for Personal Assistants, Public Awareness of CIL	RSIF grant awarded to local CIL (IEC) for peer counseling/ training for independent living. This grant was frozen in Oct. 2002; advocate reinstating this grant for FY04.
Assistive Technology	7	Computers, hearing aids, wheelchairs, TTY, Braille materials, etc.	Several agencies are working to meet tangible need, and population is becoming increasingly aware of these resources as Assistive Technology dropped from Number 2 in the 1999 survey to Number 5 in 2002 survey	Disability Services Board distributes a “Referral & Resource List”. Computers have been offered through various organizations and grants to those with disabilities. Continue to advocate State legislation to pass insurance coverage of hearing aids.
Personal Assistance Services/Training	8	Qualified service providers, interpreters, and in-home caregivers.	Salary level of personal assistants affects quality of caregivers, shortage of ASL interpreters.	List of ASL Interpreters, both freelance and agencies compiled and distributed. Advocate sign language classes offered in local schools and colleges

Training	9	Qualified service providers, interpreters, and in-home caregivers.	Salary level of personal assistants affects quality of caregivers, shortage of ASL interpreters.	List of ASL interpreters both freelance and agencies compiled and distributed. Advocate sign language classes offered in local schools and colleges.
Education	10	Continuing education after high school, especially for those with multiple disabilities.	Limited opportunities.	George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College do offer programs for those with disabilities. Advertise scholarship opportunities. There is still missing services –seek RSIF grant for education.
Accessibility (not a core area)		DSB office receives complaints about local businesses that are not accessible, including Mall stores	Awareness and sensitivity training are needed.	DSB responds to concerns with letter to business, educating them on ADA and accessibility. Participate in Virginia Disability Friendly Awards.
Emergency Preparedness (not a core area)		Emergency preparedness for those with a disability in event of crisis.	61% of those with a disability report no plans in place to safely evacuate work or home.	PWC drafted an Emergency Preparedness Plan, DSB will seek to distribute information to those with disabilities in the community.

