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To: TJPDC Commissioners
From: Rochelle Garwood, Staff to the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board
Date: February 26, 2009
Re: Support for the continuation of the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board (JADSB)

Purpose: To brief the Commission on the circumstances behind the attached resolution

Background: The Governor's proposed budget cut all support for funding for Disability Services Boards (both administrative and RSIF grants), and included language to remove the requirement for localities to maintain a Disability Services Board. No amendments have been introduced to restore the funding or the language, so it is likely that state support for DSBs will cease in FY10. However, the JADSB feels strongly that its mission is far from complete, and that a regional board is still needed for the gathering and dissemination of information about services for people with disabilities. They have asked that the TJPDC and its member localities reaffirm their support for the existence of the JADSB. TJPDC has provided staff support for the JADSB since its inception in 1993. Funding for staff did not begin until FY98.

Issues: Loss of state support for administration of the JADSB would make it necessary to reduce staff time devoted to the DSB and/or find other funding sources. Staff recommends support of the JADSB by the TJPDC for quarterly meetings and grant writing efforts to seek funding for projects related to the JADSB. Localities would be asked to continue to support the JADSB by appointing representatives.

Recommendations: Discuss and approve the attached resolution.

Action Needed: Approve resolution and disseminate to TJPDC localities with the recommendation that they resolve to continue support as well.

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RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT Jefferson Area Disability Services Board

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board was first established in 1992 in response to legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly requiring the establishment of Disability Services Boards; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board was established as a regional Disability Services Board by resolution of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, the Boards of Supervisors of the Counties of Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna, and Nelson, and the Council of the City of Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board has provided services including a triennial Needs Assessment Report, information sharing on services for people with disabilities, and recognition of those who have provided outstanding support for the employment of people with disabilities, since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the need for and utility of a regional Disability Services Board remains despite the likely passage of legislation in the current session of the Virginia General Assembly that would no longer require Disability Services Boards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission continues to support the existence of the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board and its mission of gathering and disseminating information on services for people with disabilities, and urges its member localities to do so as well.

Adopted the 5th day of March, 2009

Connie Brennan, Chair