

Madawaska Valley

Association For

Community Living

**POLICY: BOARD GOVERNANCE**

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**CATEGORY: GOVERNANCE**

The Mission of the Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living is to advocate for and support the efforts of persons with intellectual disabilities in order that all persons live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the Madawaska Valley and have the opportunity to participate effectively.

Manner of Governing:

The Board acts on behalf of the M.V.A.C.L. members using the Mission and Goal Statement as its guideline.

The Board has been entrusted by the membership of the Association with making the most efficient and effective use of the resources to achieve the Association's Goal and Mission.

The Board will approach its task in a manner, which emphasizes strategic leadership more than administrative detail, clear distinction of Board and staff roles, and proactivity rather than reactivity.

A Board designate must have access to all corporate records, financial documents and keys in the event of an emergency where no authorized staff can be reached.

In this spirit, the Board:

1. Undertakes on-going strategic planning and maintains an up-to-date Mission and Goal Statement.

2. Initiates and develops written policies that concern ends (what benefit, which need, what cost); administrative constraints (prudence and ethical limitations) binding upon the Executive Director; governance process (how the Board carries out its task); executive linkage (passage of power and monitoring of its use).

3. Acts as connector between the Association and the community and fosters positive working relationships with other community organizations.

4. Hires the Executive Director and draws upon the range of experience and ideas of its members in acting as a consultant to the Executive Director.

5. May raise money (independent of government funding) to provide for the many and varied needs of the Association.

6. Educates itself on a continuing basis in order to be most effective.

7. Enforces upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to attendance, confidentiality, policymaking principles, respect for role clarity, speaking with one voice, and self-policing of Board tendencies to stray from rigorous governance.

8. Establishes and executes mechanisms for monitoring all of the foregoing functions of the Board.