

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB)  
February 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Rooms 4/5**

**FA-DSB Members in Attendance:**

*Tapan Banerjee, Chair, Dranesville District  
Linda Collins, Braddock District  
Alexandra Dixon, At Large  
Harriet Epstein, Secretary, Providence District  
Mark Farage, City of Fairfax  
Donald Kissinger, Jr., Springfield District  
Chester Freedenthal, Lee District  
Tim Lavelle, At-Large  
Michele "Cookie" Hymer Blitz, Hunter Mill District*

**FA-DSB Members Excused from the Meeting:**

*Leeann Alberts, Vice Chair, At-Large*

**Others Present:** Matthew Barkley, Jill Clark, and Carl Varner-Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Disability Services Planning and Development; Tom Bash, Fairfax Area Commission on Aging; Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia; David McKernan, Sulayman Brown, Sandra Fox, and Ursula Kiel-Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

**Minutes and Agenda:** The February agenda and the November minutes were both adopted unanimously. Newly-appointed Lee District representative Chester Freedenthal was welcomed to the board.

**Public Comment:** Doris Ray from the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) announced that David Burds, who was the executive director of ECVN for more than 15 years, passed away, and invited FA-DSB members to attend a memorial service for him on February 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel. Doris said that ECVN supports the FA-DSB's existing position on the benefit of increasing the number of vouchers to transition people with disabilities out of nursing facilities, and to increase the number of units with roll in showers in Fairfax County. She supports DSB efforts to include this proposed policy in the Proposed Consolidated One-Year Action Plan. She also suggested that the FA-DSB consider adding a requirement for newly-constructed multifamily housing projects to be surveyed for accessible features in compliance with the Fair Housing Act within two years of completion. Doris also said that according to her interpretation of Title II of the ADA, Transportation Network Companies would be required to accommodate people with disabilities if they accept any state or local government funding. She concluded by informing the FA-DSB that Arlington County recently passed a requirement for automatic push button door openers to be included in site plans for newly constructed public facilities, but it was blocked by the Dillon Rule so she asked for the board's support with what has become a statewide initiative.

**Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Update on the Transition from the Medical Needs Registry to**

**Fairfax Alerts:** David McKernan led a panel discussion along with several representatives from OEM about the transition from the Medical Needs Registry to Fairfax Alerts. Citing outdated technology and a lack of enrollment as the primary reasons for the transition, it will occur on March 1, 2016. Unlike the Medical Needs Registry, Fairfax Alerts requires people to self-identify as having one of 12 functional needs, and there isn't a mechanism to verify what they are, or what assistance would be needed in an emergency. Instead, Fairfax Alerts would be focused on educating people about individual preparedness, and could be specially targeted toward people who identify as having one or more functional needs. Fairfax Alerts has not been used in this manner yet, and OEM staff present were not sure how the information collected would be used. However, there is a potential for it to facilitate two-way communication and to better identify the location of people who have self-identified as having a functional need during an emergency. OEM then distributed Fairfax Alerts

promotional materials and encouraged FA-DSB members to share them with their colleagues encouraging them to sign up for the service.

**Lines of Business (LOBs) and Fairfax County's Advertised Budget:** Matthew Barkley presented an overview of Fairfax County's LOBs exercise and the budget process for FY 2017, including a summary of the recently-held Human Services Community Dialogue, a schedule of LOBs presentations to the Board of Supervisors, and a calendar for the Advertised Budget including the date it will be released, dates of important hearings, and when it is scheduled to be adopted. The FA-DSB will review their budget priorities during their March meeting.

**FA-DSB Legislative Priorities for the 2016 General Assembly:** Matthew Barkley gave an update on the progress of the FA-DSB's 2016 legislative initiatives that were adopted by the BOS, including a summary of Virginia's efforts to update its Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver services. Michele "Cookie" Hymer Blitz asked that any specific bills or amendments relevant to their legislative priorities be distributed to the board.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Given the earlier agenda item of the meeting, Harriet Epstein didn't have any further information to report, but welcomed Ursula Kiel as the new Outreach and Disability Integration Liaison, thanked OEM for participating in the FA-DSB's meetings, and encouraged board members to continue recruiting people for Fairfax Alerts. She also said that a committee meeting would be held immediately before the March 14 FA-DSB meeting.
- **Housing:** Michele 'Cookie' Hymer Blitz reported that the Proposed Consolidated Plan One-Year Action Plan for FY 2017 is now available online for viewing. It identifies the proposed use of funds for the three federal programs: Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant. The FA-DSB voted unanimously to submit written testimony with positions consistent with previous years, and also adopted a motion to support the expansion of Auxiliary Grant opportunities for adults with disabilities. Cookie also invited FA-DSB members to participate in a series of public meetings exploring barriers to fair housing in the Fairfax area.
- **Mobility and Transportation (M&T) Committee:** Jill Clark reported that the January M&T Committee meeting was canceled because of inclement weather, and will resume its efforts to explore how Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) can serve people with disabilities during its February meeting.

**Chair's Items:** Tapan Banerjee reported that he is eager to fill the At Large, Mason, Sully, Falls Church and Mt. Vernon vacancies on the FA-DSB, and encouraged staff to promote the opportunity to serve on the board. The board voted unanimously to write a letter to the elected officials representing jurisdictions with vacancies on the FA-DSB urging them to fill them as quickly as possible. Tapan also expressed the urgent need to initiate 2016 strategic planning activities during the March meeting.

#### **Member and Staff Reports:**

- Matthew Barkley shared a template for business cards for FA-DSB members to use while acting on behalf of the board. Chester Freedenthal suggested clarifying the websites listed on the business card template, and with that modification the board voted unanimously for the cards to be printed.
- Tim Lavelle suggested implementing a plastic bag tax in Fairfax County similar to the one that was adopted in Washington DC and Montgomery County, MD. Tim recommended that the revenue could be used to fund services for people with disabilities. Staff volunteered to research the county's policy on implementing such a tax, whether or not it would be possible to do so in Virginia, and will report back at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** 9:05 p.m.