Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB)
September 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes
12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Rooms 9/10

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:
Harriet Epstein, Secretary, Providence District
Tapan Banerjee, Chair, Dranesville District
Michelle 'Cookie' Hymer Blitz, Hunter Mill District
Donald Kissinger, Jr., Springfield District
Alexandra Dixon, At Large
Tim Lavelle, At-Large
Mark Farage, City of Fairfax

FA-DSB Members Excused from the Meeting:
Leeann Alberts, Vice Chair, At-Large
Linda Collins, Braddock District

FA-DSB Members Absent:
Kelly Greenwood, Mt. Vernon District
Petra Osborne, At Large

Others Present: Jill Clark, Alison Kron, and Carl Varner-Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Disability Services Planning and Development; Tom Bash, Fairfax Area Commission on Aging; Dean Sherick, Office of Emergency Management; and Rene Schecker, Metropolitan Washington Ear.

Adoption of Minutes and Agenda: The September agenda and the June minutes were both adopted unanimously.

Public Comment: Dean Sherick, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), introduced himself as the temporary OEM liaison to the FA-DSB until Bruce McFarlane's position is filled. He noted that there are two vacancies in OEM, one for outreach and the other focused on ADA and functional needs, which are vacant and encouraged anyone with expertise in those areas to apply. He also alerted the DSB that there will be an earthquake exercise, the Great Southeast ShakeOut, on October 15.

Washington Ear: Rene Schecker, volunteer manager at the Metropolitan Washington Ear, presented on the organization's services. They serve people who are blind or low vision or have a physical disability that prevents someone from reading print. Their free services include a radio broadcast, telephone dial-in news and information service, a personal look-up service in the evenings, and audio description of live stage performances. They rely primarily on volunteers to serve as readers and Rene encouraged anyone interested to contact her. She also asked that the FA-DSB spread the word about their services in the community. It was suggested that she present at an upcoming Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) meeting. Carl Varner will connect Rene with LTCCC staff.

Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards: Jill Clark reminded the FA- DSB that an ad hoc committee must be established to review nominations for the Award and have a recommendation finalized for the November FA-DSB meeting. Harriet Epstein and Mark Farage volunteered to serve on this committee. Jill will email the FA-DSB soliciting additional volunteers.

Legislative Priorities for 2016 Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly: Cookie Hymer Blitz reviewed the FA-DSB's submission of legislative priorities. Staff was asked to brief the FA-DSB at their November meeting on which of the board's priorities were adopted into the county's legislative agenda. Cookie reminded members that they can only lobby as the FA-DSB on items that are on the county's legislative agenda. Members discussed the possibility of going to Richmond during the General Assembly to lobby on approved priorities.

Bridges from School to Work: Mark Farage shared information about *Bridges from School to Work*, which helps transitioning youth with disabilities find competitive entry-level positions in the private sector. The organization was established and funded by the Marriott Foundation and they currently work with DC and Maryland schools, but do not serve Virginia yet. Mark requested that the FA-DSB host Shelby Hill, their DC director, at the November 9 board meeting. Members agreed that this would be a good opportunity and Mark will put Shelby in contact with Jill Clark to coordinate the presentation. Members suggested that it would be beneficial for the FCPS Career and Transition Services staff to be invited as well and that the organization should also connect with the FCPS Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities.

Committee Reports:

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Harriet Epstein reported that she is waiting for OEM to hire Bruce McFarlane's replacement before holding a committee meeting. She told the FA-DSB to focus their outreach efforts in the interim on Fairfax Alerts. She also briefed the board on the "Getting it Right" preparedness event that was held in July and was for jurisdictions to learn how to better serve people with disabilities during emergencies. She noted that Alison Kron attended as well. Harriet also encouraged members to explore volunteering with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and it was pointed out that FA-DSB members can consult the CERT brochure and/or previously circulated emails for more details on how to participate in this training program.

  Housing: Cookie Hymer Blitz shared that she, Tapan Banerjee, and FA-DSB support staff had a productive meeting with Kurt Creager, who was the director of Housing and Community Development. Unfortunately, he resigned shortly after their meeting so the FA-DSB will have to establish a relationship with the future director and brief the person on the housing barriers facing people with disabilities such as the need for the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Department of Housing and Community Development to facilitate improved and expanded accessibility for people with disabilities

- **Mobility and Transportation Committee**: Jill Clark reported that the new mobility manager has been hired. Don Kissinger reported that the committee's legislative priorities were also adopted by LTCCC and that NV Rides is receiving a Board proclamation on September 22.

Chair's Items:

Tapan Banerjee reported that he's serving temporarily as the FA-DSB's representative on the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), but needs a replacement appointed as quickly as possible. He also reminded members that the Disability Employment Awareness Month Proclamation will be held on September 22 at 8:30 a.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.

Member and Staff Reports:

- Tim Lavelle shared that he attended a focus group for the county's "Text to 9-1-1" rollout and is very excited that people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be able to more easily request help in emergencies. He will be attending the launch of text to 911 on September 22.

- Jill Clark reminded the FA-DSB that they will next meet on November 9 and that their December meeting will be the awards ceremony. She also announced that Jackie Browne has resigned and asked that FA-DSB members help get the word out about the four vacancies on the board.

Adjournment: 8:48 p.m.