Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB)
June 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes
12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Rooms 2/3

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:
Harriet Epstein, Providence District
Tapan Banerjee, Chair, Dranesville District
Michelle 'Cookie' Hymer Blitz, Hunter Mill District
Donald Kissinger, Jr., Springfield District
Leeann Alberts, At-Large
Linda Collins, Braddock District
Alexandra Dixon, At Large
Tim Lavelle, Secretary, At-Large

FA-DSB Members Excused from the Meeting:
Mark Farage, City of Fairfax
Jacqueline Browne, Mason District

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

Others Present: Matthew Barkley, Alison Kron and Carl Varner-Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Disability Services Planning and Development; Doris Ray- ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV).

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

Public Comment: Doris Ray was pleased that the FA-DSB will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ADA in July and said that ECNV will likely participate. She also invited FA-DSB members to ECNV's annual awards reception and gala on June 11, offered recommendations to the board's comments on the Human Services Needs Assessment, 2016 Legislative Priorities, and the Consolidated Community Funding Pool Advisory Committee.

25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Tapan Banerjee reported that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) unanimously passed an item to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ADA on July 28, 2015. The FA-DSB will host a reception in conjunction with the BOS Proclamation at 9 a.m. that morning, and agreed to actively promote the endeavor in order to ensure that it is a successful event.

Fairfax County Human Services Needs Assessment: FA-DSB support staff distributed a summary of issues that was documented as a follow up to the FA-DSB's group response to Fairfax County Deputy County Executive Pat Harrison's request for relevant advisory boards to respond to her ongoing assessment of human service needs. Additional comments, edits and recommendations were made by FA-DSB members. Support staff will document the changes and redistribute the response to the board before it is submitted to the county.

Nomination of FA-DSB Officers for FY 2016: The Nominations Committee re-distributed its slate of candidates for the FA-DSB Executive Committee. The nominees are-**Chair**: *Tapan Banerjee-Dranesville District*; **Vice Chair**: *Leeann Alberts-At Large*; and **Secretary**: *Harriet Epstein-Providence District*. The nominees were unanimously voted into their one year leadership terms for FY 2016, lasting from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Legislative Priorities for the 2016 General Assembly: Legislative priorities are due to the county's department of legislative affairs by August 3. The board briefly discussed new potential legislative initiatives, including requiring health insurance to cover hearing aids, and Doris Ray's recommendations to emphasize the dire need for additional support for the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services' Personal Assistant Services, and to clarify U.S. Department of Labor regulations for in-home support personnel. Harriet Epstein said that the FA-DSB's legislative priorities should be aligned with other like-minded boards and organizations such as the Long Term Care Coordinating Council and the Northern Virginia Aging Network. Harriet also volunteered to join Leeann Alberts, Michele 'Cookie' Hymer Blitz, Jackie Browne and Linda Collins on the Legislative Committee. The committee will meet in June/July and establish the FA-DSB's legislative priorities for 2016.

Committee Reports:

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Harriet Epstein reported that SMART 911 was not funded in Fairfax County's adopted FY 2016 budget, that the special needs coordinator for Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is retiring over the summer, and she spoke about the different functions that the Medical Needs Registry and Fairfax Alerts provide in making sure that people with disabilities are adequately addressed during an emergency. Harriet emphasized that no matter which system OEM favors moving forward, it is essential that people with disabilities continue to be prioritized in all emergency planning efforts. She also endorsed Fairfax County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and encouraged FA-DSB members to participate in the program.

  Housing: Michele 'Cookie' Hymer Blitz stated that a meeting with the new director of Fairfax County's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has been scheduled to discuss some of the committee's current initiatives--expanding the Home Repair for the Elderly program beyond homeowners to include people renting housing units, meeting federally mandated accessibility and set aside percentages for people with physical and sensory disabilities, and enhancing Tenant Based Rental Assistance vouchers to better serve people transitioning from nursing facilities into the community. Cookie said the FA-DSB's comments to the Consolidated Community Funding Pool Advisory Committee are consistent with previous years, stressing the need for more fully accessible units with roll-in showers. She added that the requirements for Universal Design, Accessible, Type A and B units are not clearly defined.

- **Mobility and Transportation Committee**: Don Kissinger reported that the committee is reviewing ways to improve MetroAccess, particularly text or video relay capabilities so people who are deaf or hard of hearing can check of the status of their rides. He also stated that the committee is reviewing legislative priorities for increased oversight of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft, and more autonomy for local jurisdictions to repair/modify bus stops, curb cuts, and sidewalks for accessibility. Tapan Banerjee reminded everyone that he is only temporarily attending the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) meetings, and another representative is needed to fill the FA-DSB's seat on the TAC.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act**: Leeann Alberts is revitalizing the ADA Committee with a focus on accessible parking reserved for people with disabilities, and will be scheduling a committee meeting soon.

Chair's Items:

FA-DSB Chairman Tapan Banerjee stressed the importance of regular meeting attendance and committee participation, and motioned for a formal letter to be sent to the elected officials who have representatives on the FA-DSB with excessive unexcused absences. The motion was adopted unanimously by the board.

Tapan reiterated the importance of having a strategic action plan in place to direct the FA-DSB's activities in the coming year. Rather than holding a traditional weekend retreat, the FA-DSB will incorporate strategic

planning activities into the September meeting where priorities, goals and initiatives will be established, and status updates will be regularly provided to the board during the monthly meetings.

A FY 2016 meeting schedule was distributed to the board. Following a summer recess, the next meeting will be the strategic planning exercise in September (date T.B.D.), followed by meetings on November 9, December 14, 2015 and February 8, March 14, May 9, June 13, 2016. All FA-DSB full board meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m.

Adjournment: 8:55 p.m.