

May 18, 2013

Fairfax County Human Services Council

Educating ♦ Supporting ♦ Engaging
the Fairfax Community

“LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK:
Dialogue with the Fairfax Community”

Council provides forum for community sharing of
information and engagement
May 18, 2013

Highlights

- Board of Supervisors Member Cathy Hudgins shared views on the current human services environment in the context of county budget and emphasized ongoing need for community involvement in public policy decisions.
- Commonwealth of Virginia Secretary Bill Hazel outlined key state initiatives to improve access to State funded programs and the impact to services at the local community level.
- Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova applauds work of the Fairfax County Human Services Council, celebrating its 25th anniversary year and urges attendees to continue service to and advocacy for the broader community.
- Kevin Bell, Chair of Human Services Council thanks attendees for continued volunteer efforts on behalf of the community and requested collective action to support human services.

Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison introduced BOS member Cathy Hudgins, the chair of the Board's Human Services Committee. Supervisor Hudgins spoke of the need for a renewed focus on measuring results of the human services system. She highlighted a new collaboration she is providing leadership for to better serve the needs of our youth. The newly formed **Successful Children and Youth Policy Team** will be responsible for setting goals and priorities around children and youth issues.

Kevin Bell, chairman of the Human Services Council, welcomed the keynote speaker, The Honorable William Hazel, MD, the Commonwealth of Virginia Secretary for Health and Human Resources. Secretary Hazel shared some key initiatives at the state level regarding information technology, the growth in service needs in health care, and the growing requirements for cross systems data collection and analysis to improve services across the state.



BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova spoke to the value of advisory groups, the importance of state and federal funding streams and the impact of expected reductions in human services revenues to the county. She spoke to the strength of our local economy, with an unemployment rate at 3.7% as of March 2013. This is an improvement over just 12 months ago, when unemployment was at 4.3%. She highlighted, however, that people are still struggling. Helping people find – and keep - their jobs at wages that can support an individual or a family to live and work in our county is a huge priority.

This session marks the fourth community dialogue session sponsored by the Human Services Council, which began in 2011. For notes and information on this and past activities, please see the council's web site at www.Fairfaxcounty.gov/humanservicescouncil

The next community dialogue will be held in January 2014.

Have an idea for a future dialogue session? Willing to partner or to showcase your program? Email the Council at humanservicecouncil@yahoo.com



The Fairfax County Human Services Council hosted a dialogue on Saturday, May 18 with Fairfax County residents on “Looking Forward, Looking Back”. For 25 years, the Council has

advised the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the resources needed for the human services system. The Human Services Council is a citizen group appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise agencies and the board on budget and program-related issues. Members serve as a catalyst for engaging the broader Fairfax community to learn about, support and work in support of the county-wide human services system.

Eighty individuals joined together on last Saturday's rainy morning event to share information, network, and learn about current collaboration activities and challenges facing human services.

