



FAIRFAX FALLS-CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING

June 25, 2025

The Community Services Board met in regular session at the Sharon Bulova Center for Community Health located at 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22031 in room 3-314 West.

1. Meeting Called to Order

Board Chair Dan Sherrange called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

2. Roll Call, Audibility and Preliminary Motions

PRESENT: **BOARD MEMBERS:** CHAIRMAN DAN SHERRANGE; VICE CHAIR ANDREW SCALISE (VIRTUAL); SECRETARY EVAN JONES; DR. PATRICIA ZISSIOS; BETTINA LAWTON; KAREN ABRAHAM (VIRTUAL); DARIA AKERS; SARAH COUGHTER; SRILEKHA PALLE

Staff in Attendance: Executive Director, Daryl Washington; Deputy Director of Administrative Operations, Jean Post; Deputy Director of Clinical Operations, Abbey May; Senior Strategy Director, Shweta Adyanthaya; Healthcare Systems, Director Jennifer Aloï; Chief Finance Officer, Elif Ekingen; Division Director, Kevin Lafin; Info Tech Program Manager, Shwetal Parikh; Administrative Assistant, Katherine Guerrero; Division Director Eileen Bryceland; Legislative Liaison, Elizabeth McCartney; Program Manager, Family Services, Peter Steinberg; Division Director, LaVurne Williams; Division Director Support Coordination, Siera Simmons; and Board Clerk, Pura Valdez.

3. Matters of the Public

Susan Miller, a 2006 graduate of the Crossroads residential treatment program, delivered a heartfelt appeal highlighting the life-saving impact of substance abuse. She voiced deep concern over a recent \$4.9 million budget reduction representing nearly 60% of all cuts across CSB Programs. As someone whose life was profoundly transformed by this support, Susan emphasized the urgency of shielding substance abuse services, particularly residential treatment centers, from further financial reductions. Ms. Miller urged Board members to adopt a thoughtful and empathetic strategy in allocating resources, one that prioritizes and empowers those most in need.

4. Amendments to the Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was provided for review. Addition to the agenda is a certificate presentation to Board member Sheila Coplan Jonas for providing service and support to CSB. No amendments were made.

Certificate presentation to Board Member Sheila Coplan Jonas

The Board honored Sheila for her longstanding dedication and impactful service to the Community Services Board (CSB) programs. Her contributions were acknowledged with heartfelt

gratitude from the board and team members, recognizing the value she brought to the organization and its mission. As a token of appreciation, she was presented with a certificate and letter of appreciation, symbolizing deep respect and thanks for her meaningful role and commitment throughout her tenure.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on May 28, 2025, were provided for review. Bettina Lawton gave Board Clerk, Pura Valdez, a copy of her edits.

BOARD MEMBER EVAN JONES MOVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 28, 2025, AS AMENDED. COMMITTEE MEMBER SRILEKHA PALLE SECONDED THIS MOTION. MOTION TO ADOPT WAS APPROVED WITH ONE BOARD MEMBER ABSTAINED.

6. PRESENTATION: Youth & Family Services (YFS)

Division Director LaVurne Williams shared that Youth and Family Services have made progress in expanding community-based care, guided by data-driven maps and strong partnerships. Peer support integration grew with three specialists embedded across multiple programs, contributing to quality improvements in FY25. The team led a robust children's mental health initiative that reached 700 individuals and earned proclamations from local leaders. With a \$8M budget backed by state, federal, and Medicaid funds, the department serves over 1,600 youth and is enhancing medication-assisted treatment and outpatient services. Looking ahead, they plan to increase access points, offer daily walk-in assessments, expand transitional-age youth programs, and broaden court collaborations. Youth and Family Services marketing continue to boost awareness and partner engagement to ensure every young person receives the support they need.

Program Manager, Family Services, Peter Steinberg talked about the Healthy Minds Fairfax Care Navigation. Care Navigation is a centralized access point for youth and families in Fairfax County who are not yet connected to behavioral health services. It is not case management or crisis navigation (like 988), and it's not peer led. Instead, it's a structured, assessment-based approach to connect individuals to appropriate services. It is a tailored version of the program for Spanish-speaking immigrant families. Offers in-home or community-based support during flexible hours and includes culturally sensitive psychoeducation and assistance. You can access Navigation Care via email referrals or use online referral forms and walk in at White Granite in Oakton.

7. Director's Report

A. **Legislative Liaison Elizabeth McCartney** mentioned the petition for regulatory changes to improve access to *buprenorphine* treatment in Virginia, especially for youth under 16.

Buprenorphine Access Petition (Virginia)

- VaSAM (Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine) is urging the Virginia Board of Medicine to update regulations restricting buprenorphine prescriptions for youth under 16, despite its clinical effectiveness.

- Other changes proposed are to remove the need to justify adult doses over 24mg and end mandatory counseling referrals.
- Over 50 public comments submitted in support—an unusually high number.
- Decision expected August 1, 2025.
- If rejected, legislative pathways may be explored.
- Advocates are mobilizing for more public comments ahead of the July deadline.

- B. **Healthcare Systems Director Jennifer Aloï** talked about the state reporting transition update. This week marks a major milestone as it officially transitioned from the monthly Community Consumer Submission (CCS) report to the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), now delivering critical data to the state every two hours. Since going live, the team has processed nearly 6,000 transactions with a remarkable error rate of under 1%, showcasing the precision and dedication behind this effort. Real-time dashboards are now available to both CSB and the state, offering transparency and responsiveness.

Special recognition goes to the Director of Analytics & Evaluation, Linda Mount, for her outstanding leadership on this project, and to every team member who contributed to making this one of the most successful CSB launches to date. Meanwhile, the work at Next Gen Electronic Health Record (EHR) continues at a strong pace, with scheduling nearly 65% complete and content reviews already ahead of schedules ensuring that behavioral health workflows reflect the team's expertise and needs.

- C. **Executive Director Daryl Washington** said that the organization is currently grappling with fiscal uncertainty due to potential federal budget changes affecting Medicaid, which could lead to policy shifts at the state level and make forecasting challenging. Compounding this issue is a proposed consolidation of mental health and substance use block grants, alongside reduced funding for prevention services. Locally, a mandated 5% budget cut for FY27—amounting to roughly \$9 million—has prompted proactive cost-saving measures, including staff-suggested ideas such as reevaluating license fee payments and plans for a broad input survey. Encouragingly, the agency has exceeded revenue targets by approximately \$5 million, prompting leaders to consider raising future targets, contingent on the continuation of Medicaid expansion.

Staff and board members also took time to honor the legacy of the Cornerstones and New Generation residential programs, which are closing, reflecting on their significant impact and the dedication of the teams.

Daryl Washinton touched based with the financial operations which showed progress, with Accounts Receivable reduced from \$10.3 million to \$6.9 million and overdue accounts declining from 40% to 31%, indicating promising trends despite staffing gaps. Additionally, the release of Fiscal Year 2026 waiver assignments has resulted in the organization receiving approximately 304 waivers, which will be distributed monthly following previous rollout models to ensure effective service delivery.

- D. **Senior Strategy Director, Shweta Adyanthaya** shared communication updates, noting that the June newsletter has reached over 1,900 subscribers and spotlighted a well-received presentation from recent board meetings. Highlights include coverage of specialty dockets such as Veterans, Hope, and Recovery, along with targeted content sent to supervisors. Attention was drawn to the crisis flyer in the board packet, which is being actively distributed through communication channels and prepared for translation into multiple languages. A correction was made to earlier packet versions to reflect the removal of the LGBTQ+ option from the federal crisis line menu—an update that will be shared with Board of Supervisors offices, effective July 15, 2025.

8. Matters of the Board

- A. The board confirmed a new streamlined schedule, consolidating monthly meetings into a single day with a structured sequence:
- a. Fiscal Committee at 4:00 P.M.
 - b. Compliance Committee at 5:00 P.M.
 - c. Executive Committee at 5:30 P.M.
 - d. In months without Compliance, the Executive Committee will begin at 5:00 P.M.
 - e. Legal counsel attendance will be coordinated for Compliance meetings
- Meeting date & time changes have been approved, and Board Clerk, Pura Valdez will send an updated calendar to all Board members.
- B. **Daria Akers** announced that **NAMI Northern Virginia** was officially named the **2025 NAMI Outstanding Affiliate of the Year** at the virtual NAMI Conference 2025. This award honors affiliates that demonstrate exceptional commitment to mental health advocacy, education, and community support. Under the leadership of Executive Director **Rebecca Kiessling**, the organization has expanded access, strengthened cultural competency, and deepened its impact across one of the most diverse regions in the country.
- C. **Bettina Lawton** mentioned that to uphold bylaws requiring monthly meetings, especially amid forthcoming 5% budget cuts set for early September the Board agreed to add an additional August meeting to support timely review and planning.
- D. **Andrew Scalise** proposed repurposing the August meeting as a retreat-style session to foster board connection and strategic dialogue. In addition to addressing upcoming budget cuts, the gathering could feature activities that reinforce collaboration and strengthen relationships among members.
- E. **Evan Jones** reminded all board about the upcoming mandatory training period, urging all board members to complete the required modules within the designated two or three-month window. Exact dates are to be confirmed and will be distributed via email by the Board Clerk, Pura Valdez, to ensure everyone is informed and prepared to fulfill their obligations.

9. Committee Reports

- A. **Secretary Evan Jones** mentioned that the Service Delivery Committee (SDOC) meeting will be on **August 13 at 5:00 P.M.** A site visit to Chris Atwood is scheduled for July 29, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.
- B. **Chairman Dan Sherrange** reminded all that the Compliance Committee meeting is on **August 20, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.**
- C. **Dr. Patricia Zissios** said that the Fiscal Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for **August 20, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.**

10. Review Item

A. **CSB State Performance Contract**

The board will review the FY 2027 State Performance Contract, which is now open for public comments until July 11, 2025. While the volume of changes is high, approximately 90% are administrative, replacing outdated data submission processes (CCS) with a data warehouse system that updates every two hours, and shifting from the core service taxonomy to standardized CPT medical codes. These revisions improve compatibility with Medicaid and private insurers but do not significantly impact service delivery. The board is tasked with approving the contract on **July 23, 2025**, board meeting so it can advance to the Board of Supervisors for review in August. Members were encouraged to read through the full document ahead of next month's decision.

11. Action Item

A. **Election for FY26 Board Officers**

Nomination Committee Chair Bettina Lawton finalized its FY26 Board Officer nominations, following a recommendation from the Nominating Committee announced last month. The proposed slate included **Andrew Scalise for Chair, Evan Jones for Vice Chair, and Sarah Coughter for Secretary.**

With no additional nominations or volunteers from the floor, Bettina Lawton moved to approve the slate FY 2026 CSB Board Officer presented to the board by acclamation. After a formal motion and seconded by Dr. Patricia Zissios, the vote was unanimous, affirming the new leadership team for the upcoming term.

12. Adjournment

COMMITTEE MEMBER DARIA AKERS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, WHICH WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER EVAN JONES. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.

July 23, 2025

Date Approved

Pura Valdez

Clerk to the Board