



FAIRFAX FALLS-CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING

July 23, 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 Andrew Scalise called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

2. Roll Call, Audibility and Preliminary Motions

PRESENT: **BOARD MEMBERS:** CHAIRMAN ANDREW SCALISE; VICE CHAIR EVAN JONES; SECRETARY SARAH COUGHTER; DR. PATRICIA ZISSIOS; DARIA AKERS; SRILEKHA PALLE; KASEY MCNAMARA; JENNIFER DESAI; ALISHA KEIRSTEAD; ANNE WHIPPLE AND BETTINA LAWTON

Staff in Attendance: Executive Director, Daryl Washington; Deputy Director of Administrative Operations, Jean Post; Deputy Director of Clinical Operations, Abbey May; Deputy Director of Clinical Operations, Dr. Barbara Wadley-Young; Senior Strategy Director, Shweta Adyanthaya; Healthcare Systems Director, Jennifer Aloï; Chief Finance Officer, Elif Ekingen; Division Director of Contracts and Supportive Services, Kevin Lafin; Info Tech Program Manager, Shwetal Parikh; Division Director, Eileen Bryceland; Legislative Liaison, Elizabeth McCartney; Program Manager, Family Services, Peter Steinberg; Division Director, LaVurne Williams; Division Director Support Coordination, Sierra Simmons; Division Director, Behavioral Health Nursing, Yussuf Enum; Division Director, Residential Services, Liv O'Neal; Director of Analytics & Evaluation, Linda Mount; Administrative Assistant, Katherine Guerrero; Executive Assistant, Aferdita Balla, Board Clerk, Pura Valdez.

3. Matters of the Public

Abdihalim Abdullahi Fairfax County resident and person in long-term recovery, delivered a heartfelt testimony urging the Board to reconsider proposed budget cuts—particularly the nearly 58% reduction affecting mental health, substance use, and homelessness services. He emphasized the life-saving impact of these programs, sharing his personal journey from addiction to becoming a productive member of society, thanks to the support of the Community Services Board (CSB) and long-term treatment. Mr. Abdullahi highlighted the broader community implications, stressing that these services are essential for families, workers, and vulnerable individuals. He called for minimizing the cuts as much as possible and welcomed further dialogue to advocate for preserving critical resources.

4. Amendments to the Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was provided for review. No amendments were made.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the meeting held on June 25, 2025, were provided for review. On Page 6 to update William to Williams. No further edits were made.

BOARD MEMBER EVAN JONES MOVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 25, 2025, AS AMENDED. COMMITTEE MEMBER DARIA AKERS SECONDED THIS MOTION. MOTION TO ADOPT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6. **PRESENTATION:**

Division Director Support Coordination Sierra Simmons presented a comprehensive update on Support Coordination's operations, budgetary constraints, and the escalating challenges tied to the Developmental Disability (DD) waiver waitlist in Fairfax County. Drawing on her 30+ years of experience, she underscored the mounting pressure on local resources, particularly as the county now holds the highest number of individuals on the Priority One waitlist statewide.

- Total Priority One individuals: 1,137
- Waiver slots allocated: 304
- Unserved by end of FY26: 833

Ms. Simmons emphasized that state-level messaging from DBHDS particularly around the goal of eliminating the waitlist—has inadvertently fostered unrealistic expectations among families and advocates. She called for greater transparency and consistency in communications to manage public understanding and trust. To uphold service quality and meet obligations, Ms. Simmons stressed the critical need for sustainable funding to:

Recruit and retain qualified Support Coordinators

- Maintain manageable caseloads
- Ensure compliance with service standards

Advocate for continued legislative engagement, including:

- Future budget requests for additional waiver slots
- Dedicated onboarding funds to support workforce development

7. **Director's Report**

- A. **Legislative Liaison Elizabeth McCartney** reported that the county government relations team is restructuring its legislative program to be more strategic and action oriented. Moving away from an expansive annual document with numerous positions, the new framework will center on county values, including the protection of local authority and opposition to unfunded mandates.

Key Changes include:

- Streamlining each policy area to three targeted areas for the upcoming session (e.g., transportation, behavioral health, Medicaid waivers)
- Prioritizing clarity and impact over volume to better align with legislative opportunities.

The revised program is expected to be presented at the September 16, 2025, County Legislative Committee meeting. CSB leadership will work closely with service directors to ensure priorities like DD waivers and behavioral health are clearly represented. Updates will be shared with the board as the process evolves.

- B. **Healthcare Systems Director Jennifer Aloï** said that the Electronic Health Record (EHR) building portion has been completed, including Questions & Answers setup for diagnosis, lab, and activation favorites. These will be copied to test/train domains with Sprint design sessions starting the week of August 18, 2025. The team is now moving from a document-based system to a data-driven platform. Instead of replicating paper forms, Credible Care captures data through templates that generate documents as needed. Missing forms don't mean missing data—everything is captured and can be organized dynamically.
- C. **Executive Director Daryl Washington** reported on the following:
- Medicaid & SNAP Policy Changes:** Recent federal actions have introduced new requirements that may significantly impact Medicaid operations and access in Virginia:
- Medicaid Expansion remains intact; however, beginning late 2026, new hurdles have been introduced:
 - Monthly work or volunteer hour requirements
 - Twice-yearly eligibility redeterminations (previously annual)
 - Billing lookback period reduction from 90 to 30 days, limiting reimbursement opportunities
 - Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative funding is being reduced:
 - Local agencies, including Family Services, will operate with fewer resources
 - No state-level support is expected to offset these cuts
 - A newly issued federal memo prohibits the use of federal funds for services to undocumented individuals:
 - This presents operational challenges for jurisdictions like Fairfax County, which follows a trust policy and does not inquire about documentation status
 - Potential impacts include emergency services, outreach programs, and federally funded initiatives such as PATH
 - Implementation Timeline: Some provisions are effective immediately; others will phase in over the next two years
 - Next Steps: County leadership is reviewing legal guidance and documentation while current operations will continue until formal direction is received.

FY27 Budget Planning: Executive leadership has initiated planning for anticipated FY27 budget reductions, with a focus on preserving core clinical services:

- Strategy includes advocating for an increased revenue target—potentially up to \$5 million—to offset a projected \$9.2 million shortfall
- Staff have consistently exceeded revenue expectations, providing a strong foundation for this approach

- **Evaluation Process:**
 - Reviewing low-performing areas and exploring new operational strategies
 - Soliciting staff input via a dedicated inbox and upcoming survey
 - Emphasis on discretionary items (e.g., sign-on bonuses, recognition programs) rather than program closures
 - If reductions intersect with personnel impacts, leadership will present the matter to the Board of Supervisors to ensure transparency and avoid premature concern
- **Decision Framework:** Final determinations will be guided by staff feedback, fiscal feasibility, and service impact analysis.

State Performance Contract Overview: The FY26 State Performance Contract is pending approval and outlines service expectations between Community Services Boards (CSBs) and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS):

- Includes a core contract (uniform across CSBs) and Exhibit Ds detailing specific services, outcomes, and reporting requirements
- Some Exhibit Ds are negotiable, allowing CSBs to advocate for funding and service terms. Others are mandated, with limited flexibility
- The process remains largely directive, with final terms often arriving during the public comment period, limiting collaborative input.

Diversion First Initiative – 10-Year Milestone: Fairfax County's Diversion First initiative celebrates its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of progress in diverting individuals with behavioral health needs from incarceration to treatment:

- Recognized nationally at the NACo Conference and featured in the Chairman's newsletter
- Expanded services include:
 - Behavioral health docket
 - Discharge support from detention
 - Co-responder teams
 - Marcus Alert program
- Emergency services operate 24/7, supported by a first-floor crisis response center that facilitates rapid law enforcement transfers
- Outcomes include reduced jail admissions, improved crisis response, and enhanced public safety through cross-agency collaboration.

D. **Senior Strategy Director Shweta Adyanthaya**, mentioned that the CSB newsletter serves as a platform to spotlight programs, recognize staff, and share training opportunities. A crisis services flyer was distributed across four Fairfax County districts, and there was notable engagement around the care and navigation system. Looking ahead to August, the newsletter will highlight Diversion First initiatives, the expansion of the addiction medication clinic, and updates on crisis services. Materials are also shared with county and

city communications teams for broader dissemination, and board members are encouraged to subscribe to their district leadership newsletters to stay informed.

8. Matters of the Board

A. Board Bylaws

- It was clarified that the bylaws were amended in 2022 to allow nine meetings per year, omitting April, August & December.

B. Board Calendars

- August 27, 2025, is not a formal Board meeting but a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) training session.

C. Site Visit to the Chris Atwood Foundation

- Board members, Bettina Lawton; Dr. Patricia Zissios; Vice Chair Evan Jones; and Daria Akers will be attending.

9. Committee Reports

- Secretary Evan Jones** mentioned that the Service Delivery Committee (SDOC) meeting will be on **August 13, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.** A site visit to Chris Atwood is scheduled for July 29, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.
- Chairman Andrew Scalise** reminded all that the **Compliance Committee Meeting** is on **August 20, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.** Followed by **Executive Committee Meeting at 5:30 P.M.**
- Dr. Patricia Zissios** said that the **Fiscal Oversight Committee Meeting** is scheduled for **August 20, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.** She encouraged new board members to attend the meeting.

10. Action Item

Approval of CSB State Performance Contract FY2026-FY2027. This contract outlines the agreement between the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board including funding allocations, service expectations, and compliance requirements.

BOARD MEMBER BETTINA LAWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (CSB) STATE PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FOR FY 2026 - FY 2027. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR EVAN JONES AND RECEIVED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

11. Adjournment

COMMITTEE MEMBER BETTINA LAWTON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, WHICH WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER ANNE WHIPPLE. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:47 P.M.

August 27, 2025

Date Approved

Signed by:

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Clerk to the Board