

Monday, November 8, 2021

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District
- Melandee Canaday-Jones, At-Large
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Diane Monning, Providence District
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Sarah Taylor, Lee District
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- At-Large, Tom Bash- Excused
- City of Fairfax, Judith Turcott- Excused
- Lee District, Vacant
- Mason District, Vacant
- Sully District, Vacant

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Delali Osei-Boateng (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (Adult & Aging Division Director, DFS), Courtney Arroyo (OEM), Moriah Kitaeff (OEM), Joe Jamison (VisitAble).

The board conducted a wholly electronic meeting as the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe to physically assemble a quorum in one location or to have the public present.

Board members and staff support accessed the meeting via the Zoom web platform. All board members stated calling from their home district.

Members of the public also accessed the meeting via Zoom.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of Previous (September and October 2021) minutes.** Deborah Hammer moved to approve the September and October minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.
3. **Public Comment.** Courtney Arroyo said hello to the group and stated she was happy to be at the meeting.

Meeting Items:

Presentation by Joe Jamison, VisitAble: Joe provided a brief presentation about his organization. VisitAble focuses on disability and accessibility inclusion. It provides physical accessibility assessments as well as disability etiquette training. Joe asked the group where the areas of opportunity are in terms of better serving Fairfax County residents with disabilities. Melandee Jones provided the observation that transportation options can be challenging for persons with disabilities. Sarah Taylor stated that there are many individuals who need accommodations that might not be obvious and how does one deal with that and provide the appropriate supports, as an area of opportunity. Sarah emphasized the need to have all staff adequately trained on the needs and requirements of all individuals. Lindsay Harris emphasized the need for universal design and how it would be to the benefit of everyone.

Martha Glennan Nominations Committee: The committee decided to award one winner this year and have selected Conner Cummings due to his work and message of inclusion via YouTube and the Arc of Northern VA. He demonstrates a lot of dedication and persistence in meeting his mission. Deborah Hammer requested a motion to award Conner this year's Martha Glennan award. Mary Pauline Jones made the requisite motion and it was seconded by Melandee Jones. The motion passed.

Action Items for FY 2022:

- Deborah Hammer let the board know that Judith Turcott has agreed to chair the initiative of a future training focusing on equity and disability. Courtney Cezair Mayers asked that an education initiative be added to the list. The initiative should read: Address educational and systemic barriers that impede educational opportunity for children with disabilities. She further elaborated that an action item could be to partner with parents and families to get their assessment of what the educational needs and barriers are. Courtney would like to hold a forum and gather participants' thoughts as a way to get their ear on the ground and start hearing the parents' narratives. Deborah explained that the FA-DSB has held forums in the past to establish a baseline on certain issues the board would like to pursue. She stated that in the executive committee meeting Claudia Vila suggested surveying non-profit providers to get a sense of the issues they are seeing in the clients they serve. Courtney liked the idea and also suggested holding listening sessions or hosting booths where community members could stop by and express their frustration. Melandee Jones suggested that this information be shared with other boards that members sit on. Courtney asked if listening sessions would have to be conducted as a public meeting. Claudia stated she'd be happy to get that answered and work offline with the person assigned to the listening session initiative.

- Diane Monnig reminded the group that she is working on the employment initiative. She stated she attended a webinar about Tempe, Arizona which has created an initiative around hiring persons with disabilities and has had a lot of success.
- Courtney stated she had done some research around the prior request made by Doris Ray that the board look into the way the county's Public Housing Authority (PHA) administered its most recent Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) voucher program. Courtney suggested some education to the PHA around equitable application processes. She also suggested some education around the interactive process regarding reasonable accommodations, perhaps in the form of a webinar and then redirecting the audience to some additional resources.
- Deborah Cohen asked for board input regarding which portions of the county site might be known to be inaccessible. Deborah Hammer shared that she had heard some of the site isn't always accessible to persons who are blind, and that the site doesn't always use plain English. Courtney shared that she has personally had a hard time with the standardization of county fonts and light backgrounds. Lindsay Harris volunteered to assist Deborah Cohen with the web accessibility initiative.
- Deborah Hammer asked that the group do a task analysis together on the initiatives they plan on creating. The first step would be to establish a baseline and determine what information is currently available. This should be determined in the next month or two. Andrew Magill suggested that the second step should be to collect data and conduct an analysis. The third step would be to set up meetings and establish connections so that the goal could be accomplished. Courtney suggested that for each initiative, members identify areas of opportunity and potential barriers.
- The board then brainstormed questions it would like to include in a survey to local non-profits who serve persons with disabilities.

Updates:

- Claudia shared an update she received from Cookie Blitz regarding the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC). At their most recent meeting, Cookie reminded the group that any building that is rehabilitated or built should be done so in an accessible manner.
- Diane Monnig provided an LTCCC Equity committee update. She stated that the committee is creating a survey it plans on distributing to LTCCC partners. The survey focuses on utilizing equity and inclusion practices in business.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Taylor and seconded by Andrew Magill. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.