

Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Zoom Virtual Platform due to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

Members Present:

- **David Jonas (Chair)** attending virtually from the Mason District.
- **Nancy Hall (Secretary)** attending virtually from the Mason District.
- **Alice Foltz** attending virtually from the Sully District.
- **Karen Darley** attending virtually from the Braddock District.
- **Joe Koszarek** from Hunter Mill District
- **Andre Lee** attending virtually from the City of Fairfax.
- **Laura Martinez** attending virtually from Providence District.
- **Mary Wilcox** attending virtually from the City of Falls Church.
- **Amitra Banerjees** attending virtually from the Springfield District

Members not Present:

- **Vacant** from the Dranesville District.
- **Saud Hasan Shah** from the Lee District

Staff:

- Michael Becketts, DFS Director
- Melanie Fenwick, DFS Senior Policy Manager
- Marijke Hannam, DFS Deputy Director
- Kristina Jordan, DFS Documentarian
- Angela Yebroah, DSVS, Advocacy Program Manager

- **This meeting was held via Zoom Virtual Platform due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.**
- **The public was able to access this meeting by dialing 888-270-9936 and then entering the conference code 371526.**

Meeting Opening:

- David Jonas called the meeting to order at 7:03pm
- David Jonas read the electronic meeting script as authorized by FOIA and performed roll call establishing that each member can hear each other.

New Member Introductions:

- Joe Koszarek (Hunter Mill District) introduced himself to the Board. Joe has lived in Reston for seven years. He is on the Cornerstones Board of Directors. He says he is ready to make a larger impact on Fairfax County by joining the ASSB. Joe, welcome!

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from September 15, 2021, were approved by ASSB Chair and Board.

Director's Announcements:

- Michael Becketts, Department of Family Services (DFS) Director, reported to us that DFS will be, after the planning and design, implementing the Guaranteed Basic Income program. The funds are part of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). The goal is to make a collective impact on the community. Providing cash and other support systems will alleviate other problems, so that community members can pursue better employment and other opportunities. Program participation will not draw down from others benefits. Questions from the Board included:
 1. "How will participants be selected?"
 2. "How will the program be sustained?"
 3. and "Will these funds be taxable to the recipients?"
- Link to presentation - [Addressing Economic Insecurity – Laying the Foundation for Future Success \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ARPA/Pages/Addressing-Economic-Insecurity-Laying-the-Foundation-for-Future-Success.aspx)
- As part of the Director's Announcements, Melanie Fenwick reminded us that she had sent a notice to Board members about a seat on the newly constituted Affordable Housing Advisory Council. The representatives will report to the Board of Supervisors about advances in housing affordability. They are required, as of now, to meet in person. There is no set schedule yet. The first meeting is November 5th, 9:00am. Alice Foltz was elected unanimously to serve. Melanie will follow through with the new Board and Alice.

ARPA Funding Update:

- Marijke Hannam reported that, as part of the COCID recovery, Fairfax County will be receiving another tranche of funds. The approved projects include adding six positions for Employment and Training. They are added to the baseline, until FY 2024. One Short-term Health Needs position is added as well. There were other proposals not approved, but will be reviewed, including Child Welfare (there might be other funding sources for this); and, as part of Domestic Violence tracking, an Electronic Health Report.
- There is a mid-year Budget Review scheduled. There is no cause for alarm, it's to look for trends. The FY 23 Budget is being submitted; it is embargoed for now but will be incorporated into the County Executive Director's Budget.
- Questions asked: what is the demand for the six new positions for employment? Melanie responded that, in part, positions had been eliminated because of the low unemployment rate in the County. The increase reflects a new staffing demand: the team will be region-wide, including Loudoun and Prince William Counties. Monies are coming from the Workforce Development Fund. Director Becketts reported that people are looking to learn new skills, or upgrade skills within a profession. For example, Hospitality and Retail employees are moving to other opportunities. The "Great Reassessment" is occurring, assessing what is valued. The "Great Readjustment" may add to a collective bargaining impact. Alice Foltz asked the Employment Services get out into the community more, to reach the ones who need it most.

Domestic & Sexual Violence Services

Angela Yeboah, Advocacy Program Manager, delivered a concise report on the program, included under separate cover. Director Becketts asked about Bystander Intervention, given a situation recently on public transportation. Outreach and training are needed for all First Responders, including bystanders. Angela reported about the Lethality Assessment Program, part of Law Enforcement, that relays cases to Human Services for action. There is a special DV Hotline for victims. Andree asked about programs for men. Angela said the programs are gender neutral. David asked about volunteering. Angela said there is a great demand, particularly for court accompaniment and for the hotline.

Chair's Announcements:

- Nominations for Chair. The Nominations for chair are due next month, November. In February, the chair offers nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary. Chair Jonas announced that he will be seeking re-election and was willing to speak with any other candidates.
- Annual Report. (From last meeting, offering a reminder) We have a "deliverable" in February to the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors. We need to furnish content, preferably held to sixteen pages of written text and data, by the end of December. The report is broken out into: COVID response, employment services, workforce investment, refugees, and the child welfare delivery system. Each member is asked to send a photo of himself or herself, as we gained the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church to our membership this year. The Board was reminded to pay particular attention to Section 4, as there is some discretion in use here.
Chair Jonas said we need to get a Chair's letter started soon. Andre, Joe, and Nancy said they would join a Subcommittee to assist. The Board voted to approve meeting electronically for this purpose.
- Meetings will return in-person in January. The Fairfax County Health Emergency expires on December 31, 2021.
- National Adoption Awareness Month. November is the month designated for Adoption Awareness. This is something the ASSB has followed this year. Our primary response is to develop a Social Media Kit to help broadcast the great program and include more of the community

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Next ASSB meeting:

- Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 7:00pm-8:30pm

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