

**Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)**  
Wednesday November 17, 2021, 7:00pm-8:30pm  
Zoom Virtual Platform due to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

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**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.
- **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.
- **Saud Hasan Shah** from the Lee District
- **Raymond McGrath** from Mt. Vernon District

Members not Present:

- **Vacant** from the Dranesville District.
- **Amitra Banerjees** from the Springfield District
- **Karen Darley** from the Braddock District.

Staff:

- Michael Becketts, DFS Director
- Melanie Fenwick, DFS Senior Policy Manager
- Kristina Jordan, DFS Documentarian
- Alycia Blackwell, DFS Deputy Director
- Julie Bowman, Program Manager, Foster Care & Adoption
- Angela Morlu, DFS Communications Specialist
  
- **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 7:02pm
- 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:**

- Raymond McGrath (Mt. Vernon District) introduced himself to the Board. Ray is a former Foreign Service Office. He described his job as learning to communicate across disciplines of culture, economics, and politics. Welcome, Ray!

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Minutes from October 20, 2021, were approved by ASSB Chair and Board.

### **Director's Announcements:**

- Michael Becketts, Department of Family Services (DFS) Director, directed our attention to the 2022 Action Calendar, a month-by-month set of reminders of what our tasks are as the ASSB, and of what DFS does during the year. It was decided to strike "Black History Month" as DFS used to participate as the County representative, but no longer does. Under "November," there will be added the task of "write, edit, and finalize the Chair's Letter for Annual Report," or words to that effect.
- The Chair's letter to the BoS should be mailed to Melanie Fenwick by the end of the first week of December. The letter will be brought to the ASSB at the December meeting.
- There will be a new member orientation scheduled for February.
- Director Becketts introduced the Board to the Quarterly Local Agency Dashboard (sent as part of the packet electronically in advance of this meeting). Of interest to us was the performance data for Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The area excelled on most measures, particularly in SNAP Applications processed. TANF, with 100% timeliness, exceeds all the other groups. The County demonstrates excellent performance of the timeliness of First Contact with Victims. Director Becketts wants to be able to do same-day processing, as is already being performed in other (non-Virginia) jurisdictions.

### **Nomination for Chair:**

- Vice Chair Alice Foltz nominated David Jonas for 2022 calendar year ASSB chair. He was elected unanimously to serve. The results will be announced at the December meeting.

### **Adoption Awareness Month:**

- Julie Bowman, Program Manager, Foster Care & Adoption, relayed that November is Adoption Awareness Month. They celebrate adoptions on the first Saturday with the new families.
- Social Media Kit: Angela Morlu, DFS Communications Specialist, introduced the Board to the Social Media Kit, the way to spread information about the good work the County does with foster care and adoptions and how to get involved. Her presentation will be sent electronically to the Board under separate cover. It looked like an excellent way to message a service the County provides that our Board has expressed an interest in promoting.

### **Chair's Announcements:**

- Chair's Letter for the Annual Report. The sub-committee had met November 16<sup>th</sup>. The letter will be ready for the ASSB December meeting.

- Changes to April and December 2002 Meeting Dates: Both April and December meeting dates conflict with religious observance dates and will be rescheduled to the Wednesdays one week earlier.
- Housing Advisory Council: Alice Foltz reported that, since the 2007 County focus on preventing and ending homelessness began, there has been a 33% reduction. There continue to be the issues of the cost of housing, the cost of affordable housing, and the lack of affordable housing. There is an ambition plan proposed of \$100 million over ten years to fund new housing and refurbish existing structures, but the funding has not been approved.

**Adjourned:**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**Next ASSB meeting:**

- Wednesday, December 15, 2021, from 7:00pm-8:30pm

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