

Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)
David Jonas, Chair
Wednesday February 16, 2022, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Zoom Virtual Platform due to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

Members Present:

- **David Jonas (Chair)** attending virtually from Mason District (At-Large member)
- **Nancy Hall (Secretary)** attending virtually from Mason District
- **Alice Foltz (Vice Chair)** attending virtually from Sully District
- **Joe Koszarek** attending virtually from Hunter Mill District
- **Laura Martinez** attending virtually from Providence District
- **Mary Wilcox** attending virtually from the City of Falls Church
- **Saud Hasan Shah** attending virtually from Lee District
- **Raymond McGrath** attending virtually from Mt. Vernon District
- **Ben Zuhl**, attending virtually from Dranesville District
- **Karen Darley**, attending virtually from Braddock District.

Members not Present:

- **Amitra Banerjees**, Springfield District
- **Andre Lee**, the City of Fairfax

Staff:

- Michael Becketts, DFS Director
- Alycia Blackwell, DFS Deputy Director
- Melanie Fenwick, DFS Senior Policy Manager
- Kristina Jordan, DFS Documentarian
- Lisa Tatum, PAES Division Director
- Jackie Williams, PAES Deputy Director, Benefits
- Daniel Mekibib, PAES, Workforce Development
- Matthew Vaughan, Assistant Division Director, PAES Operations
- Karla Bruce, Fairfax County Chief Equity Officer

- **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 7:02 pm
- David Jonas read the electronic meeting script as authorized by FOIA and performed roll call establishing that each member can hear each other.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from January 19, 2022, were approved by ASSB Chair and Board.

Director's Announcements:

- Michael Becketts, Department of Family Services (DFS) Director, reported that the DFS final report was due soon, to time with the County Executive Director's release of the FY2023 proposed budget.
- Dir. Becketts reported that our focus on affordable housing and homelessness is gaining traction. We are looking at the intersection of housing and what falls under DFS's purview of childcare, benefits, and others. The Housing and Community Development Committee is ready to address these concerns with the ASSB. The Board hopes to have a product to present.
- The Board will have a budget presentation at the March 16th meeting.
- All Board members should have received electronic access to the article about Director Becketts and re-imagining the delivery of child protection services. (It is nice to have a transformative leader at the DFS helm!)

Public Assistance and Employment Services (PAES):

- PAES Division Director Lisa Tatum, introduced her team of Jackie Williams, Matthew Vaughan, and Daniel Mekibib.
- Matthew reported that more than 170,000 Fairfax County residents were impacted by the DFS in 2021.
- The DFS staff has demonstrated remarkable resilience. February is PAES Appreciation month.

Equity Task Force Update:

- Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, presented a report from the taskforce, sent to ASSB members under separate cover. The Board's interest is in, among others, the intersection of housing inequity and mental health.
- Karla highlighted Recommendations 16, 18, 19, and 20 as applicable, similar to the list the ASSB had earmarked of 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, and 20.
- The Board needs to review our priorities and how they line up with these as stated.
- Ray asked about the tracking of 16 – 18-year-olds, not in school or at jobs.
- Hasan said there needs to be a roundtable to engage other institutions to address the inequities.
- David asked about how affordable housing occurs, what are the drivers. Karla brought up NIMBY, great ideas but "not in my backyard." She mentioned that over 80% of the space allocated for dwellings is for single family residence, a form of red-lining, as those with fewer resources rely on apartment rental availability. The County needs a broader spectrum of housing opportunities.

General Assembly Update:

- Alycia Blackwell gave a brief update of themes: staffing at nursing homes, kinship support (County is watching for "unfunded mandates" or onerous reporting requirements)
- "Caregiver" needs to be codified.
- The County is watching the adverse legislation involving protection orders and easing of weapons possession.

Nominate and Elect Secretary:

- Hasan Shah was nominated and elected as Secretary unanimously. Melanie will work with him during the transition, as will Nancy.

Chair's Announcements:

- Chair Jonas reminded Board Members that the ASSB report has been sent to them and that they are **strongly encouraged** to schedule a meeting to discuss it with their Board of Supervisors supervisor. Melanie will send out relevant "talking points."
- Chair Jonas also reminded us that the Budget hearings are coming in early April. He will have a five-minute time slot. Hasan, Ray, and Nancy volunteered to form a subcommittee with David to draw up a presentation.

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Next ASSB meeting:

- Wednesday, March 16, 2022, from 7:00pm-8:30pm