

**Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)**  
**David Jonas, Chair**  
Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM  
Zoom Virtual Platform due to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

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**MEETING MINUTES - AMENDED**

**Attendees:**

Members Present:

- **David Jonas (Chair)** attending virtually from the Mason District
- **Nancy Hall (Recording)** attending virtually from the Mason District
- **Alice Foltz (Vice Chair)** attending virtually from the Sully District
- **Laura Martinez** attending virtually from the Providence District
- **Andre Lee** attending virtually from the City of Fairfax
- **Karen Darley** attending virtually from Braddock district
- **Joe Koszarek** attending virtually from Hunter Mill District
- **Ray McGrath** attending virtually from Mount Vernon District

Members not Present:

- Mary Wilcox, City of Falls church
- Ben Zuhl, Dranesville District
- Amitra Banerjee, Springfield District
- Saud Hasan Shah, Lee District

Staff:

- Melanie Fenwick, DFS Senior Policy Manager
- Alycia Blackwell, DFS Deputy Director
- Kristina Jordan, DFS Documentarian
- Lisa Tatum, Division Director, Public Assistance and Employment Services
- Tom Fleetwood, Director, Housing & Community Development
  
- **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 3/16/2022 meeting were approved by ASSB Chair and Board.

### **End of Public Health Emergency/SNAP and Medicaid:**

- Lisa Tatum presented, sent to all Board Members under separate cover.
  - There are a lot of overdue Medicaid renewals. The department will have sixty days advance notice when the program will end, and the recipients will need to be re-certified. It is especially important that we do outreach now to ensure all participants have their correct, current information on file. Staffing resources will again be a challenge. The department will have 12 - 14 months to complete the backlog. The staff is trying to prevent lapses in coverage. A flyer will be forthcoming in English and Spanish stressing the importance of furnishing recent contact data.
  - SNAP. There have been Emergency Supplements from the Commonwealth of Virginia that may sunset soon, they have been in effect since May 2020. Families have been receiving extra benefits. The staff is in the process of alerting food banks to anticipate a surge in demand for services. During the pandemic, all families received the maximum allotment. Lisa will find out what the Commonwealth is doing to alert food banks.

### **Housing & Community Development:**

Tom Fleetwood gave a comprehensive presentation of current and projected projects to protect and expand affordable housing in Fairfax County, broken out by Districts. The Board of Supervisors recently changed the number of affordable units desired from 5,000 to 10,000 by 2025.

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

- Alycia Blackwell presented a legislative update.
- There is no budget yet for the next two-year cycle. The chambers are being called back into session on April 27<sup>th</sup>. There is a 3-billion-dollar gap between the House of Delegates and the State Senate. The budget cycle is June 1 – May 30, so there is an urgency to avoid having to shut down the state government.
- Some bills have been passed and are awaiting the governor's signature. He still has veto power over them. Sixteen bills impact DFS and/or Protective Services.
- Alycia will address how DFS is putting in place mitigating strategies for staff shortages at the next ASSB meeting.

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

- David Jonas presented.
- David in his capacity as chair, presented at the Budget Testimony to the Board of Supervisors by video. His written testimony has been sent to the ASB Board Members under separate cover. Briefly, he thanked the Board for fulling funding DFS; he stressed our ongoing concern about affordable housing, employment services and demands; the condition of our students after two years of pandemic; and asked continued support for our equity and opportunity initiatives.
- Karen Darley reported that her discussion with Supervisor Walkinshaw about the annual report went well. He reviewed the report and is pleased the ASSB is focusing on housing as it's adjacent to the BOS priorities.

### **Adjourned:**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

### **Next ASSB meeting:**

- Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM