

Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)
David Jonas, Chair
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM
Zoom Virtual Platform due to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

MEETING NOTES

Note: there are no minutes from May 2022, as the meeting was canceled for a lack of a quorum.

Attendees:

Members Present:

- **Nancy Hall (Recording, in Secretary's absence)** attending virtually from the Mason District
- **Alice Foltz (Vice Chair, presiding in Chair's absence)** attending virtually from the Sully District
- **Laura Martinez** attending virtually from the Providence District
- **Andre Lee** attending virtually from the City of Fairfax
- **Joe Koszarek** attending virtually from Hunter Mill District
- **Ray McGrath** attending virtually from Mount Vernon District
- **Mary Wilcox**, City of Falls Church

Members not Present:

- David Jonas (Chair) at-large
- Ben Zuhl, Dranesville District
- Amitra Banerjee, Springfield District
- Saud Hasan Shah, Lee District
- Karen Darley, Braddock District

Staff:

- Michael Becketts, DFS Director
- Melanie Fenwick, DFS Senior Policy Manager
- Kristina Jordan, DFS Documentarian
- Vin Rogers, 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:

- Alice Foltz called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM
- Alice 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 4/13/2022 meeting were approved by ASSB Chair and Board, with two changes. Laura Martinez asked that her name be corrected, deleting “Marcela Lievano,” and a Board Member asked that Karen Darley’s conversation with her Supervisor, James Walkinshaw, be read into the minutes. The Acting Secretary agreed to contact Karen to have her discuss the meeting in July.

Director’s Announcements:

- Director Becketts reported about Fatherhood Awareness Month (June). The Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay, has called for a white paper, with the equity lens of One Fairfax, about men intersecting with social services, both as employees and clients. There needs to be cultural context, because a lack of understanding can cause conflict in the delivery of the services. There needs to be an evaluation of what role men play. Director Becketts attended a symposium that included, among other topics, “men and masculinity” and “men of color in the US.”
- The DFS Strategic Framework was included under separate cover.
- 2023 Legislative Agenda. Melanie Fenwick has sent out a memorandum on May 26th, about how to give input, but stressing that the ASSB is an advisory board and is not expected to give input. She sent the message out again this morning. The deadline to respond is July 13th to send items at the State legislative level. Partnering with other Boards, Authorities and Commissions is encouraged, if the ASSB plans to respond. The Farm Bill is under discussion. It includes SNAP, and a possible lessening of benefits if families receive the (proposed in Fairfax County) Guaranteed Basic Income. The County may need waiver authority.
- Director Becketts attended the Safe & Sound Taskforce meeting. He reported that over three hundred youth had spent at least one night in unlicensed facility: a hotel room, office, or hospital in Virginia within the previous year. The group is exploring legislative opportunities to speed up the placement of youth, paying attention to how long it takes to staff a release to stable housing. Minutes from that taskforce meeting are available. A Board Member asked if they try to keep siblings together. Director Becketts said it was more likely that they come in separately and that the other siblings are together.

Housing and Homelessness in Fairfax County:

- Vin Rogers of the Housing and Community Development Office gave a PowerPoint presentation about rental assistance in the County. It was sent to Board Members under separate cover earlier in the day. A Board Member asked if the recipients carry the vouchers with them after they vacate a unit. The County does not track those who leave, but they may have access to a tenant voucher. The Board will look at the intersectionality of homelessness and the DFS clientele at a meeting soon.
- Gentrification along the Mt Vernon/Route #1 Corridor is a concern. Board Member Ray McGrath and his Supervisor, Dan Storck, have discussed it. We were assured that the County tracks which properties are likely to come on the market and can offer a competitive bid, as part of the No Net Loss policy. The question arose: how are the participants selected? It is done randomly, as well as reviewed for those who the agency can best serve.

Chair's Announcements:

- Acting Chair Foltz offered no comments.

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Next ASSB meeting:

- Wednesday, July 20, 2022, from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

FILE: ASSB Meeting Minutes 06.15.2022