

Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)
David Jonas, Chair
Wednesday July 20, 2022, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Zoom Virtual Platform due to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

Meeting Notes

Participants

Members attending virtually from:

- At-Large member, David T. S. Jonas (Chair)
- City of Fairfax, Andre Lee
- City of Falls Church, Mary Wilcox
- Dranesville District, Ben Zuhl
- Hunter Mill, Joe Koszarek
- Lee District, Saud Hasan Shah (Secretary)
- Mason District, Dr. Nancy D. Hall
- Mt. Vernon District, Raymond McGrath
- Providence District, Laura Martinez
- Springfield District, Amrita Banerjee

Members not present

- Braddock District, Karen Darley
- Sully District, Alice Foltz (Vice Chair)

Staff present:

- DFS Deputy Director, Alycia Blackwell
- DFS Senior Policy Manager, Melanie Fenwick
- DFS Human Resources Director, Robyn Walden
- DFS Documentarian, Kristina Jordan

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.

Call to Order

- 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 for the following ASSB sessions were approved by ASSB Chair and Board
 - April
 - June
- Due to not having quorum, a May 2022 meeting was not held

Agenda Items Discussion

- Director's Announcements:

Alycia Blackwell, DFS Deputy Director reported on the launch of Governor Youngkin's Safe and Sound Task Force to end practice of kids sleeping in local government offices

DD Blackwell reported on the paused Medicaid renewals during the COVID-19 emergency. DFS has begun to take steps to get ready for the return normal enrollment process. However, the team is no aware of the exact details of when the COVID-19 emergency will be lifted.

- DFS Recruitment and Retention Strategies:

Robyn Walden, DFS Human Resources Director, reported on recent recruitment and retention strategies the DFS HR team has deployed.

- FOIA Updates:

Melanie Fenwick, Sr. Manager for DFS Strategic Initiatives, reviewed recent FOIA changes for public meetings. The local public emergency maybe coming to end soon, and the Board needs to be thinking about returning to in person meetings. The board agrees to continue meeting in person for the time being and voted to approve the All-Virtual Meeting policy and a revised Remote Participation Policy. Mr. Shah moved to adopt the new policy, Dr. Hall and Mr. Zuhl seconded. New FOIA policy adopted by the board unanimously.

- Chair's Announcements – Human Service Issue Paper

Chair Jonas opened for comments on the issue paper. The Chair also acknowledged the work of Mr. McGrath and thanked him for his detailed review of the paper.

Chair Jonas and Mr. McGrath will submit a comment letter, on behalf of this Board, in reference to the Human Service Issue Paper. The letter will highlight key elements of the paper that are important to the board, with an emphasis on results needing to be achieved.

- Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

- Next ASSB meeting:

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, from 7:00pm-8:30pm