

Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)
Wednesday, September 21, 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 the Mason District.
- **Nancy Hall (Recording)** attending virtually from the Mason District.
- **Alice Foltz** attending virtually from the Sully District.
- **Karen Darley** attending virtually from the Braddock District.
- **Ben Zuhl** attending virtually from the Dranesville District.
- **Andre Lee** attending virtually from the City of Fairfax
- **Joe Koszarek** attending virtually from the Hunter Mill District.
- **Ray McGrath** attending virtually from Mount Vernon District
- **Laura Martinez** attending virtually from Providence District

Members not Present:

- **Amrita Banerjee** from the Springfield District.
- **Saud Hasan Shah** from the Lee District
- **Mary Wilcox**, City of Falls Church

Staff Present:

- Michael Becketts, DFS Director
- Melanie Fenwick, DFS Senior Policy Manager
- Marijke Hannam, DFS Deputy Director
- Kristina Jordan, DFS Documentarian
- Amy Carlini, DFS Communications Director
- Keisha Dotson, Division Director, Neighborhood & Community Services (NCS)

- **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 7:06pm
- 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 07/20/2022 were approved by ASSB Chair and Board.

Director’s Announcements:

(Out or order, as Director Becketts joined late)

- The State is stopping the Local Agency Performance Dashboard.
- The Inspector General’s Report is due out soon. It contains information about the protection of children across the Commonwealth. Fairfax County is positioning itself now in advance of some of the findings.
- The Youth Survey from the Fairfax County Public School System has been published. It assesses the students’ well-being, among other indices.

Neighborhood & Community Services – Housing & Emergency Assistance:

Director Keisha Dotson gave a highly informative presentation on how NCS delivers housing and emergency services, provided under separate cover by Melanie Fenwick.

Highlights included:

| | |
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| | \$65 million in ERA direct assistance |
| | \$21.3 million in CARES funds |
| | \$93.3 million in emergency and rental assistance, other sources |
| TOTAL | \$101,419,329 |

DFS Housing Supports:

Melanie Fenwick (in Director Becketts’ absence) gave a brief report about how DFS supports our community’s housing needs, send by her under separate cover. Director Becketts joined at that time. He spoke about the DFS activities to teardown silos and build bridges outside of DFS, within the County services system. DFS attempts a 360-degree view of the family and its needs, to support the stability of the family (instead of immediately removing the children to foster care). DFS provides integrated support instead of fragmented actions taken on individuals within the family.

The ASSB studied housing within the County for nine months. How should we capture how we have learned? We need to continue to identify what is happening to support housing now. We need to advocate for continued energy and investment in housing. Alice Foltz: we need affordable housing. We need to help formulate POLICY, not just review programs.

2022 Annual Report:

Amy Carlini proposed a two or three page “This is why DFS should be at the Housing table.” Suggested timeline: draft by October 21st, final review at the November 16 meeting. There will not be printed copies, but publication to be scheduled for December.

ASSB members had met with their BoS Supervisors, was there anything to convey to Amy from those meetings? Ray McGrath met with Supervisor Daniel Storck, who wanted to see more about outcomes achieved than the process of delivery and services. There was a question of who is the target audience of the report, the BoS or the county citizens? It was decided to form a sub-committee to meet with the Chief Equity Officer , among other activities. We need to focus on outcome-based reporting, although all the matrices requested are provided in the Annual Report already. The sub-committee will need another month so the draft deadline will be pushed into November. Joe, Ray, Alice, and Ben will form the sub-committee

Chair’s Announcements:

Chair Jonas offered that this was the last ASSB meeting for Nancy Hall, as she is completing her second four-year term, and thanked her. Nancy's BoS Supervisor has not chosen to inform Nancy of her successor.

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Next ASSB meeting:

- Wednesday, October 18, 2022, from 7:00pm-8:30pm