

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board Full  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 11, 2023**

**FA-DSB Members in Attendance:**

- David E. Simon, Chair, At-Large
- Benjamin Gibbs, Vice-Chair, At-Large
- Brandis Ruise, Secretary, Hunter Mill District
- Deborah Hammer, Mount Vernon District
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Franconia District
- Robin Rinearson O.D., Mason District
- Michael Ritter, Springfield District
- Andrew Magill, At-Large

**FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:**

- Diane Monnig, Providence District (Excused)
- Christie Garton, At-Large (Excused)
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church (Excused)
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District (Excused)

**Others Present:** Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Alma Hernandez (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (DFS staff- attended virtually), Courtney Arroyo (Emergency Management- attended virtually), and Moriah Kitaeff (Emergency Management- attended virtually).

The board met in-person and provided members of the public the opportunity to access the meeting via Zoom and in-person. A quorum was present with most members attending in-person. Sarah Taylor attended virtually, calling from home, due to an illness in the family.

**Minutes and Agenda:**

1. Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of June 2023 Minutes: June minutes were approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made and approved.
3. Public Comment: Courtney Arroyo provided an update on their Shelter and Family Assessment plans and Functional Needs guide. She stated their office was preparing for a full-scale exercise taking place in 2024 and asked that the FA-DSB participate. She also stated that September was National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is Preparing Older Adults. Her office is hosting a fair on September 24<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the city of Fairfax. Deborah asked about a one-page flyer that can be shared with senior members of the public. They agreed to develop one to disseminate.
4. Approval of Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

**Meeting Items:**

1. **Access for Patients with Disabilities- Janice Holmblad and Debra Haynes, Inova Health System**

- a. Inova staff conducted a presentation on accessibility tools available to Inova patients. The slide deck was part of the meeting packet. Different questions were posed by the board ranging from ASL interpretation, accessible exam tables, to accessible parking. Inova agreed to investigate whether they have enforcement agreements with local precincts, or an existing policy on this matter, as it relates to accessible parking.

## **2. Martha Glennan Awards Ceremony: Committee and Event Materials**

- a. A motion was made to accept the nominations form as currently written. It was seconded and approved.
- b. Deborah Hammer and Robin Rinearson volunteered to be this year's Martha Glennan Awards Nominations Committee members.

## **3. FA-DSB Bylaws**

- a. The board reviewed the revised bylaws and held a discussion around whether it still wanted to proceed with requesting a size reduction in its quorum. Ben expressed some concern around attendance, should the quorum be reduced. Robin stated the quorum reduction would help ensure that the FA-DSB was able to hold their regularly scheduled meetings more easily, and that they would still advocate for legislative change pertaining to remote participation and voting capabilities. David stated that everyone that could attend these meetings in-person should continue to do so, despite a future quorum size reduction.

A motion to move forward with language to reduce quorum size was accepted, seconded, and approved.

## **4. FA-DSB Meeting Guidelines**

- a. A handout was shared, and David read through the meeting guidelines and expectations for how members should conduct themselves at these meetings. There were no questions or comments.

## **5. Board Initiatives – FY 2024**

- a. David introduced the possibility of creating a new column within the FA-DSB Initiatives document titled, "Continuing Items of Interest." Any initiatives that were of interest to the board, but not actively being worked on, would be moved to that category. The board liked the idea.
- b. Mike Ritter provided an update regarding the Increased Housing for Residents with Disabilities initiative. He met with Supervisor Walkinshaw over the summer and learned that new building construction is squeezing many residences into some areas that were not originally established for residential zoning. He asked other members to connect with their District Supervisors to learn about any potential barriers in making the local area livable for everyone.
- c. Debbie Cohen provided an update regarding the Increased Employment by County Government of People with Disabilities initiative. Diane and Debbie reached out to County's Human Resources Office to see if there is any interest in creating a position for someone who could help recruit and onboard persons with disabilities. Mike inquired as to whether the county had something like the Federal Government's Schedule A program. Debbie stated she could look into it.
- d. Andrew and Robin provided an update regarding the Improved Regional Transportation and Parking Options Initiative. Andrew provided an update on a

meeting he and David had with the county staff working on Parking Reimagined Initiative. Specifically, the FA-DSB's request is that the county preserve the current accessible parking rules. During the call, David asked if staff would be willing to commit to a plan that would provide accessible parking spaces above the ADA guidelines. They are hoping for a call back from staff regarding their proposal. Claudia sent a follow-up email a few days ago and they are still awaiting a reply.

- e. Robin noted that an ongoing issue to also consider is that unless business owners establish an agreement with the local police department, reinforcement of accessible parking will not occur with parking that is implemented on privately owned land; David asked Robin to look into an approach to advocate for this latter cause.
- f. Robin provided an update regarding the Ensure All County Buildings and Facilities Meet ADA Requirements initiative. Robin stated that there isn't much to work on until we receive specific concerns from constituents. However, she believed the Government Center's Atrium section should have handrails. She plans to reach out to the County's ADA Coordinator, Justin Wharton, to learn about what could be done to make the Atrium a bit more accessible. Claudia will email Robin Justin's contact information.
- g. Brandis stated that she does not have a specific update regarding the initiative of Training Other Boards, but that she'd be interested in assisting with the planning of a pilot community forum initiative.
- h. David provided an update regarding the Supporting Building Code and Zoning Ordinance Compliance with ADA Title III initiative. David has been in communication with the agency responsible for maintaining web-based information on Building Code and Zoning ordinances. He is hoping they will post some information they had originally agreed to, which would assist residents in navigating through these ordinances a bit more easily.
- i. Regarding the Application by FCDOT to the Transit Ridership Incentive Program to Improve the Accessibility of Transit Bus Passenger Facilities by Riders with Disabilities initiative, Sarah is working on establishing contact with the appropriate county staff and will provide a more detailed update later.

## **6. General Updates**

- a. Mike proposed updating the FA-DSB logo. This was tabled for further discussion at the November meeting.
- b. David reminded the board that July was Disability Pride Month, and that he had the opportunity to accept the Board of Supervisor's Proclamation plaque and say a few words on behalf of the FA-DSB. He then showed the plaque to the group.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.