

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 14, 2022**

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District
- Judith Turcott, Secretary, Fairfax City
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Franconia District
- Diane Monnig, Providence District
- Michael Ritter, Springfield District
- Erika James-Jackson, Sully District
- Benjamin Gibbs, At-Large
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- David E. Simon, At-Large

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Robin Rinearson, O.D., Mason District
- Christie Garton, At-Large

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Delali Osei-Boateng (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (DFS staff), Courtney Arroyo (DEMS staff), Carly Mullinax (DEMS staff), Cynthia Alarico (NCS staff).

The board met virtually, via zoom, a quorum was present with all members attending virtually. All members could be heard via a roll call. All members stated they were calling from home.

Deborah read the state of emergency script for a virtual meeting.

Members of the public had the ability to access the meeting via zoom.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. **Call to order 7:05 p.m.** Deborah called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. A roll call was done to establish that a quorum was present and that all could hear.
2. **Approval of Previous (Sept 2022) minutes:** September minutes were approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

3. **Public Comment.** Courtney Arroyo introduced Carly Mullinax as the new Access and Functional Needs Liaison for the Department of Emergency Management and Security. Carly said hello and provided the board with some information about her professional background. Courtney also provided information about a new system, Community Connect, managed by Fire & Rescue. This new system will absorb the Functional Needs Registry. Courtney suggested a presentation on these changes at the February board meeting.

Meeting Items:

TOPS Presentation: Cynthia Alarico, Mobility Manager with Neighborhood and Community Services, provided the board with a presentation on the TOPS program. Her PowerPoint presentation was part of the November meeting packet. The DSB had many questions and suggestions for the program. The DSB was excited for this program and supports its growth.

Martha Glennan Awards Ceremony: Ben Gibbs provided an overview of the nominations received for this year's event. He stated that both Christie Garton and himself are recommending Stephanie Davidson for the Individual Award and Marion Homes, Inc. for the Business Award. Ben motioned for approval of the two winners and the motion was seconded and approved by the board.

Claudia provided an overview of the planned ceremony. Disability Rights and Resources (DRR) is using Eventbrite this year in order to be able to control the number of individuals in attendance, due to COVID. The event will be held December 12th from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Pennino Building. She will share a flyer with the board once it's finalized so members can advertise the event.

Board Initiatives- FY 2023

Educational Campaign: Sarah did not have any update to report on this initiative.

Increased Housing for Residents with Disabilities: Sarah stated this was something she was exploring in her professional capacity for the City of Alexandria and also a request the DSB's Ad Hoc Legislative Committee made in the FY 2023 Human Services Issue Paper. Claudia stated that, should the board want to advocate for an extra bedroom for caregivers in the future, it can do so by submitting a position statement next year. She advised the group to meet sooner rather than later if it anticipates wanting to do so, to have sufficient time to work on it.

Increased Employment by the County Government for People with Disabilities: Diane and Debbie continue to work on this initiative and work to overcome the barriers to employment at this time. There was a suggestion regarding an educational campaign around employment for people with disabilities. Another suggestion was made about

looking into a dedicated staff person to assist with employment search for people with disabilities within the county.

Diane was wondering what the next steps should be and whether successful working models from other jurisdictions should be included when the DSB makes a request to the Board of Supervisors. Deborah stated that would be helpful information to have. It was noted that Prince George's County has a similar position that is funded through their Department of Human Services.

Sarah proposed a specialist position that could be shared by multiple counties in this area as a cost saving measure. Another suggestion was to propose a part-time position.

The DSB wondered if one of the board of supervisors would be willing to champion this initiative. Mike asked if the county could set up a system similar to the federal government's Schedule A Program. Claudia stated the DSB had considered advocating for this model in the past but could not do so on account of the Dillon Rule. Claudia further stated that new legislation in Virginia now allows for a hiring preference for persons with disabilities, as well as veterans, in state agencies. She's curious about how the state is planning on setting up such a program and that perhaps the county can use it as a model in the future.

Improved Regional Transportation and Parking Options (public and private/rideshare) for People with Disabilities: Andrew did not have an update to share on this initiative.

Ensure all County Buildings and Facilities Meet ADA Requirements: Discussion was tabled due to Robin and Christie's absence.

Ensure that the Needs of Residents with Disabilities are Being Met During the Pandemic: Brandis did not have an update to share on this initiative.

Accessibility of County Websites and Online Services: Debbie provided the update that Claudia and she met with the Office of Public Affairs. The office was open to comments and feedback regarding people with disabilities and website accessibility. Debbie explained that residents can find a link at the bottom of each county page which they utilize when sending the county feedback on any website issues. Claudia stated that in the meeting they learned that the county had trained approximately 400 staff on web accessibility. Courtney Arroyo explained that many people were trained to standards that would meet accessibility issues for websites. Mike added that there is standard accessibility guidance available to the public, via the WCAG standards. WCAG is a living document and can change as standards are updated.

Ability Education for Area Businesses: Deborah and Andrew will be meeting in the future and will have more to share at that time.

Increased Participation in Other Boards and Committees: There was nothing to report at this time.

Disability Training of Other Boards: Brandis updated the board on what has been done to date. Judith and Brandis have had discussions with the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center to see if they can conduct a disability training. This organization is currently working on putting together a proposal. Brandis further let the board know that Mid-Atlantic ADA Center is willing to train DSB members on how to conduct the presentation to other county boards.

Outreach to Parents and Families: No update on this initiative at this time.

Voting and Persons with Disabilities: Lindsay shared that Ben had created an educational flyer that they are hoping the Office of Elections will use. He will submit it to the DSB at a future meeting for board approval. Ben and Lindsay are soliciting updates from board members on their voting experience. Lindsay asked that anyone wanting to provide them with input send their thoughts to Claudia, who will then forward them along to Ben and Lindsay. Ben and Lindsay plan on eventually sharing that information with Office of Elections.

Updates: David asked if he could propose a new initiative at a future meeting. Deborah asked that he send a summary to Claudia so it can be included on the February meeting agenda.

9 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Lindsay and seconded by Ben. The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.