

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board  
Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 13, 2023**

**FA-DSB Members in Attendance:**

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District (Virtual- calling from home)
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Lee District
- Diane Monnig, Providence District
- Robin Rinearson, Mason District
- Erika James-Jackson, Sully District (Virtual- calling from home)
- Christie Garton, At-Large
- Benjamin Gibbs, At-Large
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- David E. Simon, At-Large

**Others Present:** Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (DFS staff), Alma Hernandez (DFS staff), Courtney Arroyo (DEMS staff), Carly Mullinax (DEMS staff), Marlon Murphy (Fire & Rescue), Austyn Ries (Department of Public Safety Communications), Jim Heart (member of public), Jerold Leonard (member of the public) and Alfred Townsley (member of the public).

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, except for Sarah Graham Taylor, who stated she was calling from Richmond.

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 7:03 p.m.** Deborah called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A roll call was done to establish that a quorum was present and that all could hear.
2. **Approval of Previous (November 2022) minutes:** November minutes were approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.
3. **Public Comment:** Jim Heart, member of the public, thanked the board members for their service to the community. He spoke about a personal concern regarding a

local government proposal, Parking Reimagined, to modify a zoning area. The zoning change will reduce loading areas that are designated for use by members of the public but will likely reduce the accessibility of spaces designated for individuals with a physical impairment or mobility needs. He seeks to raise awareness to members on the board and present a call to action to help address this concern. David Simon asked if the board could request a formal answer to this concern. The DSB agreed to discuss the matter further.

### **Meeting Items:**

#### **A. Presentation on Emergency Health Profile - Courtney Arroyo (Department of Emergency Management and Security), Marlon Murphy (Fire and Rescue Department), and Austyn Ries (Department of Public Safety Communications)**

- 1) Fairfax County has a functional needs registry that was created in 2007 – became very cumbersome to manage, and given the newer systems, this registry will be retired at the end of 2023.
- 2) In 2015, Fairfax Alerts was established as a self-registering system.
- 3) Marcus Alerts was established to facilitate notification of individuals experiencing a behavioral health emergency – presently, it's a database comprised of health information of individuals who voluntarily sign up; if 911 is called, the individual's health information will automatically appear to the emergency response dispatcher.
- 4) Individuals can sign up via [emergencyprofile.org](https://emergencyprofile.org).
- 5) Fairfax County Community Connect – a free, secure, and easy to use online platform that allows residents to share critical information about their household that will aid first responders in an emergency.
- 6) Questions:
  - i. Sara Taylor – How are we getting people to know about these resources? How are we bridging digital accessibility issues or barriers? Is Community Connect subject to FOIA? There are promotional materials that are given out during community events and representatives carry laptops with them to facilitate an easy

sign-up for community members. Individuals do need email addresses to sign up. In relation to the last question, an answer will be researched.

- ii. Courtney Cezair Mayers – Does every first responder have access to individuals' mental health information? In light of this access, is there a strategy to counteract people behaving in a manner aligned with bias or the stigma of mental health challenges? Health information is in the notes section of the data gathered by an emergency dispatcher. If mental health information is available, such data is intended to alert the emergency response team needs to include a behavioral health professional.
- iii. Andrew Magill – How will this work with deaf individuals? Is such information noted in one's health profile? There are video relay services that are triggered if such a need is indicated in one's health profile. Also, interpreter assistance can be provided.
- iv. An additional person asked (on a phone line) – How will this work for individuals with vision impairment? There are video relay services that are triggered if such need is indicated.

B. County Executive's Annual Lobbying Memo- Claudia Vila

- 1) The legislative session is underway right now. Individuals can advocate for a particular position at the state and federal level, as they see fit, but not as a DSB member.

C. Ordinance: Supporting Building Code and Zoning Ordinance compliance with ADA title III – David Simon

- 1) There is an existing program the DOJ has in place to support code compliance certification: <https://www.ada.gov/reachingout/codecert.html>.

2) Questions/Discussion:

- i. Erika Jackson - Is the board going to advocate that the ADA doesn't go far enough? Deborah Hammer replied that,

unfortunately, the DSB's purview is specific to Fairfax County. As an individual, you can advocate for the expansion of ADA.

- ii. Sarah Taylor asked if the statewide building code was meeting expectations of ADA and stated that it would be unlikely that Fairfax County could implement changes that exceed statewide procedures.
- iii. Courtney Cezair Mayers pondered if this a meaningful approach and suggested that the board connect with the ADA coordinator in the county.

David Simon made a motion for the DSB to adopt this issue (Supporting Building Code and Zoning Ordinance compliance with ADA title III) and request information from the county about which ordinances are or are not already certified by the ADA. The motion was seconded and approved.

D. Voting Initiative/Flyer Review- Ben Gibbs and Lindsay Harris provided an update on the work they've done with the County's Office of Elections. They stated that the Elections Office has been very receptive to the feedback they've provided, and their website now includes a lot more information pertaining to voting an persons with disabilities. They additionally provided an overview of the flyer they created for the Office of Elections.

Sara Taylor provided feedback on the flyer. She stated that, by law, only voters with physical disabilities can currently vote from their car. Ben and Lindsay will amend that portion.

Courtney Cezair Mayers likes the flyer, but presented concerns about the responsiveness of staff in relation to communication about concerns she had. Lindsay Harris noted her concerns and stated that a helpful next step would be for the board to provide input on training volunteers about behaviors and attitudes that promote inclusion.

Benjamin Gibbs noted that at the top of the Office of Elections' webpage, they don't currently specify curbside voting for individuals with physical disabilities, but they do at the bottom of the webpage.

Lindsay Harris made a motion for DSB to accept the amended flyer to be shared with Office of Elections. It was seconded and approved.

#### E. Board Initiatives- FY 2023

1. Educational Campaign: No updates.
2. Increased Housing for Residents with Disabilities: No updates.
3. Increased Employment by the County Government for People with Disabilities:  
Diane Monnig asked about sharing information with Trails, Parks, and Bikeways Committee to assist with employment search for people with disabilities within the county. Deborah Hammer stated that was an excellent idea.
4. Improved Regional Transportation & Parking Options (public and private/ rideshare) for People with Disabilities: Robin noted that she attended a VDOT presentation. The biggest issue was transportation, particularly, for individuals with mobility issues. There were concerns about the efficiency of public transportation vehicles to meet the needs of individuals with mobility issues. Individuals with Medicaid waivers often are charged for transportation unless they have a job coach. She also attended a Parking Reimagined presentation and it seemed to be a lateral move for reducing parking spaces. Andrew noted that he has been involved in discussions related to reduced parking in the county and has found that there are many concerns about accessible parking not being available presently. Deborah Hammer suggested that the DSB draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors. Courtney will draft the letter. Deborah also posed the question about creating a letter to address illegal parking in accessible spots that seems to be a growing problem. Deborah and Erika will work together on creating that letter for the Board of Supervisors.
5. Ensure all County Buildings and Facilities Meet ADA Requirements: discussion was tabled.

Due to time constraints, Deborah asked if there were any other updates regarding Board Initiatives. There were no further updates.

#### F. General Updates:

Courtney Cezair Mayers asked if the DSB could send out communication to families about remedial instruction being provided by FCPS in relation to COVID-19. Claudia stated she'd be happy to include the information in an

upcoming Access Fairfax publication, so long as FCPS had that information on its website or a flyer that staff could link to.

Debbie Cohen stated that Volunteer Fairfax will soon be coming out with a guidebook and more information on its website, and she'd provide another update in the future.

Courtney Cezair Mayers asked if DSB can review bylaws to address important issues more swiftly that warrant a response via subcommittees. Deborah stated that the DSB normally needs to vote as a board in order to approve letters or advocacy drafted by one or a few members of the board. She stated that bylaws have just recently been updated and it would be very difficult to change them again.

9 p.m. The meeting adjourned with a motion by Sarah Graham, which was seconded by Ben Gibbs.