

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 12, 2023**

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair/Secretary, Hunter Mill District
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Franconia District
- Robin Rinearson O.D., Mason District
- Diane Monnig, Providence District
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Michael Ritter, Springfield District
- Benjamin Gibbs, At-Large
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- David E. Simon, At-Large
- Christie Garton, At-Large

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church- Excused

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Alma Hernandez (DFS staff), and Nicole Cohen (member of the public – in person).

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 all members attending in-person.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. Call to Order: Deborah called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of Previous (May 2023) Minutes: May minutes were approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Robin and seconded by Ben.
3. Approval of Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

Meeting Items:

1. Nominations Committee—FY 2024 Voting

Robin stated that she had received nominations for David Simon as next year's Chair, Ben Gibbs as Vice Chair, and Brandis Ruise as Secretary. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Deborah asked for a motion to accept these nominees and accept a new executive committee. The motion was made and seconded. David Simon led the meeting from that point forward.

2. Approval of FY 2024 Meeting Dates

No objections were made to the proposed FY 2024 meeting dates. A motion to approve was put forth and seconded.

3. Martha Glennan Awards Ceremony—Logo

Claudia shared an updated Martha Glennan logo, which was created by the Department of Family Services' Communications team. Claudia would like to use the logo on event materials starting in September. Members liked the overall look of the logo. The suggestion was made to bold the words "Martha Glennan" and un-bold "Disability Inclusion and Equity Awards." The request to adopt the logo with the suggested changes was made and seconded.

4. Legislative Committee – New Position Statement

Sarah Taylor shared that she had submitted a letter to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and had yet to receive a response. She stated that, should the FA-DSB agree, she would take the content of the letter and draft a New Position Statement to be submitted to the County's Legislative Office, as part of the FA-DSB's legislative work this summer.

A motion was made and seconded to allow the FA-DSB's legislative team to draft a New Position Statement with language like what Sarah submitted to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, in support of amending current legislation to allow for a virtual quorum whenever boards are primarily comprised of members with disabilities.

Sarah also shared that a current bill would allow the county to apply for state funding via the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP). She stated that the county has applied for funds in the past and thought it might be a good opportunity for the FA-DSB to ask them to do so again during the next funding cycle. She stated that a portion of the funds could be used toward ensuring accessibility for ridership. Sarah asked if the board would be interested in establishing a priority related to this funding, as the FA-DSB could be helpful in providing guidance to the county on this issue, such as the parameters. The board agreed this would be a valuable initiative.

Michael suggested that the FA-DSB invite the county's Department of Transportation to an upcoming meeting so the board could learn more about who identifies and determines needs related to public accessibility (e.g., crosswalks). David recommended that this issue be combined with an existing initiative (either FA-DSB Initiative 4 or 5).

Robin shared details about upcoming virtual meetings facilitated by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) later in the month of June, to review transportation and parking updates and plans in the county. She will share that information with Claudia, who will share it with the entire board.

A motion was made to make the TRIP funding a formal FA-DSB Initiative (number 14) to enhance accessibility of public transportation.

5. Initiative Six: New Name and Letter Review

Ben shared the draft of the letter that would be submitted to the Board of Supervisors' offices and Chamber of Commerce. Sarah provided edits and shared her comments. Different members of the board shared their thoughts on wording. A motion was made to approve the letter and discussed edits. It was seconded. The motion passed.

6. Initiative Thirteen: Supporting Building Code and Zoning Ordinance Compliance with ADA

David shared a summary of what was learned via his research and suggested next steps. Specifically, he suggested that the county's Land Development Services agency include guidance on site-specific considerations related to accessibility structures and accessibility improvements. The information provided would outline the scope of what one needs to consider if he/she advocates for building modifications. Sarah suggested he reach out to the City of Falls Church and City of Fairfax so they can include similar information on their websites.

A motion was made and seconded to allow David and Christie to make the above recommendations to Fairfax County, and to also expand this advocacy to the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax.

7. FY 2024 Community Forums

Deborah advocated for resurrection of a former initiative to connect more frequently with the community via different partners that host annual outreach events (e.g., Open House hosted by a District Supervisor). She encouraged everyone to participate in an outreach event per year, while noting that the event would have to be free of charge and be able to supply things such as a table and chairs for those who staff a table. Members discussed different ideas surrounding these community events, including pinpointing a strategy, recognizing the variety of needs within the disability community, developing a list of community events, and asking our individual supervisors about upcoming community outreach events their offices are hosting. Deborah agreed to research information to help develop a list. She put forth a motion that communication and outreach initiative to be rolled into Initiative 6. It was seconded.

8. Board Initiatives – FY 2023

- a. Educational Campaign Regarding Reasonable Accommodations and Lease-Breaking Measures (Courtney and Sarah): Courtney shared that she has been in discussions with a few social workers from Adult & Aging, within the Department of Family Services. She is proposing that a document be created to better inform social workers who assist individuals with disabilities on advocating on their behalf, particularly when it comes to Housing Voucher waiting lists. It was recommended that a pamphlet be created to inform consumers. Materials and needed information will be formulated at the next meeting.
- b. Accessibility Education for Area Businesses (Deborah and Andrew): This initiative is rolling into Communication and Outreach (Initiative 6).
- c. Disability Training of Other Boards (Brandis): The Department of Family Services (DFS) will fund this training, via Disability Rights and Resources (DRR). It will be conducted by the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center. DFS boards, authorities, and commissions will be invited to attend this training, which is taking place July 26th, in celebration of the ADA's anniversary. The ADA Center will then train Disability Rights and Resources staff on how to conduct the

training moving forward, and they are planning to use it to train county staff. A limitation of this training is that only two (2) members per board will be permitted to attend. DRR staff will record the training and make it available to any board member who wishes to view it.

- d. Accessible Voting Spaces (Lindsay and Ben): Ben and Lindsay are currently partnering with the Office of Elections to create an educational video around voting and individuals with disabilities.

9. General Updates—

Claudia provided an update from the County Attorney's Office that, should the FA-DSB want to move forward with amending the Bylaws and reduce its quorum size, it has no fewer than four or five individuals present in-person. Robin moved that the board adjust its Bylaws to permit the adjustment of the number of in-person members required to have a physical quorum; specifically, to advocate for the number to be four individuals, and to subsequently bring the proposed Bylaws to the Board of Supervisor for review. The motion was seconded.

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