

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 10, 2024**

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- David E. Simon, Chair, At-Large
- Jamie Gibbs, Vice-Chair, At-Large
- Brandis Ruise, Secretary, Hunter Mill District
- Deborah Hammer, Mount Vernon District
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Michael Ritter, Springfield District
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church
- Bryan Scrafford, Sully District
- Robin Rinearson O.D., Mason District
- Diane Monnig, Fairfax City
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- Christie Garton, At-Large
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Franconia District

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Vacancy, Providence

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Ashley-Ann Waaldijk (DFS staff), Ann Kim (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (DFS staff), Moriah Kitaeff (Department of Emergency Management), Joanne Collins (Commission on Aging, member of the public), Cathy Cole (Commission on Aging, member of the public), Linda Hernandez-Giblin (DFS staff), Sarah Blake (Fairfax County Public School System), Nara Lee (Korean Community Center), Ziao Weng (Korean Community Center), undisclosed member of the public (via telephone).

The board met in person and provided members of the public the opportunity to access the meeting via Zoom. A quorum was present with members attending in person.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of May 2024 Minutes: A motion to approve the May minutes was made, seconded, and approved.
3. Public Comment: Representatives from Korean Community Center shared information regarding REACH Program to help address health disparities in the immigrant community. They also are working on initiatives to help address the needs of community members with disabilities.

An undisclosed caller presented concerns that should be considered by the FA-DSB, including ways to connect community members with disabilities with better modes of public transportation, as there are different factors contributing to barriers (e.g., if a service animal needs medical care, lack of reliable transportation). Additionally, the caller noted a concern about the need for disability evaluators being actual medical professionals.

4. Approval of Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

Meeting Items:

1. Employment Opportunities for Students with Disabilities — Sarah Blake, Fairfax County Public School System.

Ms. Blake provided an overview of career and transition services provided in Fairfax County for students with disabilities. She introduced the board to Naviance, a record keeping program that is used to manage and monitor students' transition plans, and discussed some areas of needs such as lack middle school employment and transition representatives; encouraging students to stay in the program until 22 years of age. A copy of her presentation was included in the meeting materials.

2. Commission on Aging Partnership: Community Forums — Jamie Gibbs & Brandis Ruise

Jamie provided an update regarding two upcoming community forums being held in partnership with the Commission on Aging (COA), which will be facilitated July 31st and August 1st. One related to aging adults with disabilities and the other for caregivers of aging adults with disabilities. Joanne Collins, from the COA, provided the FA-DSB with a brief explanation of their work. Commission on Aging initiatives are the result of a community survey that indicated specific areas of need abbreviated as SHAPE: Services, Housing, Access to mobility options, Personal Well-being, Economic stability and Planning. She shared that two initiatives being worked on are a community needs assessment of the disability population in Fairfax County and facilitating community forums, in partnership with the FA-DSB, to help gain data regarding needs of older adults in the county with disabilities.

3. Nominations Committee Voting — Deborah Hammer & Robin Rinearson

David Simon agreed to serve another term as Chair, Jamie Gibbs agreed to serve another term as Vice Chair. Deborah announced that Sarah Taylor had agreed to serve as this year's secretary. She then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Deborah made a motion to vote in FY 2025's Executive committee. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

4. Legislative Updates & FA-DSB Meeting Policies: All Virtual and Remote Participation- Claudia Vila

Claudia provided an update around recent legislative changes that have carved some flexibility into the board's ability to meet. She presented two new meeting policies and asked that the FA-DSB vote on them. One was an All-Virtual Meeting policy and the other was a Remote Participation policy. Claudia shared that the FA-DSB could now meet up to 50% of the time virtually, per calendar year. She also shared the requirement that members must have their cameras turned on to count toward the meeting quorum. Claudia explained that the Remote Participation policy allowed members who met the definition of a person with a disability or caregiver of a person with a disability to call into meetings virtually, an unlimited number of times, and now count toward the meeting quorum. As a rule of thumb, FA-DSB members should keep cameras on when calling into a meeting. DSB members are still limited to attending meetings virtually 25% of the time due to personal reasons. Both policies will have to be voted on an annual basis. Lastly, Claudia shared that the rules around the *Gloss v. Wheeler* case have relaxed somewhat. As of July 1, 2024, a gathering of more than two members of a public body is not a meeting, provided there is no discussion or transaction of public business among the public body members in attendance.

A motion to approve each policy was made, seconded, and approved. The board decided to conduct All-Virtual meetings during the months of February, May, and November per the new rule. A motion for those new dates was made, seconded, and approved.

5. FA-DSB FY 2025 Meeting Dates — Claudia Vila

Claudia shared the proposed meeting dates with the board and pointed out that the November 2024 meeting, if approved, would be held the first Monday of the month on account of the federal holiday. A motion was made to approve the FY 2025 meeting dates. It was seconded and approved.

6. Relay Operators and Mandatory Reporting Requirements — Claudia Vila

Claudia shared a concern that was raised to her office around older adults and scam calls when utilizing relay calls. Based on internal research, relay operators are not deemed mandated reporters and are in fact bound to confidentiality. Claudia explained that internal conversations were had among senior leadership, and it was decided to share this with the FA-DSB in the event they would like to look into it further. The FA-DSB discussed the struggle between keeping older adults safe while also maintaining confidentiality during such calls. The board decided to revisit this issue at a future meeting. Andrew suggested that Northern VA Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons attend a future meeting to provide some context around what they are hearing from the population they serve.

7. Board Initiatives — FY 2024:

Community Forums/SHAPE Partnership (Jamie and Brandis): Jamie and Brandis met with members of the Commission on Aging (COA) and SHAPE Initiative to plan forum structure and dates. Jamie and Brandis worked with the SHAPE representatives to develop a list of specific questions to ask during two virtual forums that will be held in July 2024. Each forum will last 90 minutes and help with gathering information regarding the needs of the disability community in the County. Claudia also noted that, through her work via one of the SHAPE committees, she is advocating for a Needs Assessment Survey of the disability community. This is being done in partnership with SPARK and Service Source.

Voting (Jamie and Lindsey): Jamie and Lindsey will follow up with Office of Elections about poll training and ask if they would be interested in co-hosting a future community forum focused on voting and accessibility.

8. General Updates:

Resilient Fairfax: Deborah shared information gathered at a recent meeting pertaining to heat-related deaths and how it disproportionately affects people with disabilities and/or economically disadvantaged individuals. Folks who are vulnerable to heat and need heat-related resources are encouraged to call 211.

Real Estate Tax Reduction: Robin stated she had spoken to Supervisor Jimenez regarding this topic, in which the tax reduction is based upon one's gross income rather than adjusted gross income. This issue was reportedly not currently on his radar. It is up to the Board of Supervisors how they may look into this issue. She will follow up with Supervisor Jimenez in the upcoming months.

Future Speaker: Robin asked about inviting a speaker from Metro Access for the September meeting. Claudia will follow up.

Tax Refund Incentive for Home Owners and Developers: Michael stated that there is an interest amongst developers to educate people about certifications, but this information is not well known. David encouraged everyone to watch the video that was shared by Claudia on Michael's behalf a few days ago.

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