

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 10, 2025**

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- David E. Simon, Chair, At-Large
- Jamie Gibbs, Vice-Chair, At-Large
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Secretary, Franconia District (Virtual)
- Deborah Hammer, Mount Vernon District
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Melissa Hochberg, Providence District
- Robin Rinearson O.D., Mason District
- Diane Monnig, Fairfax City
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- Bryan Scrafford, Sully District
- Brandis Ruise, Hunter Mill District

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Michael Ritter, Springfield District (Excused)
- Christie Garton, At-Large
- Vacancy, Dranesville District
- Vacancy, City of Falls Church

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Ann Kim (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (DFS staff - Virtual), Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Family Services

Minutes and Agenda:

1. Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of February 2025 Minutes: A motion to approve February minutes was made, seconded, and approved.
3. Public Comment: No public comment was made.
4. Approval of Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

Meeting Items:

1. The Chair briefly brought up the letter the Board received from Chairman Jeff McKay about the property tax relief issue brought to him by the Board and expressed disappointment in the content and tone of the response. He noted the need to likely revisit the response after some time has passed.
2. **Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Family Services**
Michael Becketts provided the Board with a presentation about the programs and services funded, in whole or in part, by Federal formula or grant monies, including but not limited to Medicaid, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG), Title IV of the Social Services Act, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Refugee Resettlement programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and numerous other programs that aid and support vulnerable and at-risk populations, including people with disabilities and their caregivers. He highlighted Medicaid and SNAP as the most impactful funds in this area currently at risk.

3. Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Family Services

Mr. Becketts also provided the Board with a presentation on the County's FY 2026 proposed budget, focused on proposed reductions. He noted that FY25 reductions focused on efficiencies and flexibility available within department budgets but FY26 proposed reductions, if authorized, involve harder choices that could impact service delivery and filled positions across County departments, including DFS. All departments were required to provide reduction options totaling 10% of their budgets and DFS expects all divisions will experience some impacts to their budgets, impacting staffing and/or programs.

4. Board Public Testimony re: FY 2026 Advertised Budget

Claudia Vila presented items in the County's FY 2026 Advertised Budget with specific impacts to the populations served by the FA-DSB. There was discussion to identify which priorities to focus on in Testimony at the County Board's public hearing on the Advertised Budget.

The Board voted to include four programs/reductions in testimony:

- Maintain current funding levels for the General Relief for Disabled Adults Program to ensure assistance will continue for those 135 residents currently enrolled in the program.
- Maintain funding for employment and day support services, which help individuals with developmental disabilities gain employment, develop job skills, and participate in meaningful day activities.
- Maintain positions providing transition services to Fairfax County Public School seniors and ensure critical services to support students with developmental disabilities who are leaving Fairfax County Public Schools and moving into adulthood are preserved.
- Continue the Differently Abled Driving Program, which offers licensed youth drivers with intellectual disabilities a safe and supportive environment to engage with law enforcement through mock traffic stops and interactive training, helping to build confidence, understanding, and positive relationships.

5. Establish Nominations Committee for Executive Committee

The Board voted to establish a Nominations Committee for the FA-DSB Executive Committee, with Robin Rinearson and Deborah Hammer volunteering to serve on the Committee. Ms. Vila explained that the Nominations Committee contacts current Executive Committee members to confirm their interest in continuing to serve. If any positions become available, the committee notifies the Board and solicits volunteers to fill the vacancies.

6. Initiative re: State and Local Engagement on Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions on the Fairfax Area Disability Community

Sarah Taylor and Bryan Scrafford provided an update on discussions regarding the impact of federal workforce and funding reductions on Fairfax's disability community. These discussions are currently taking place at the General Assembly and with the Virginia Board for People With Disabilities as well as among local, state and federal elected officials. They will continue to monitor and seek opportunities for engagement at local, regional, and state levels.

7. Initiative: Advocacy for Needs Assessment of the Local Disability Community

Diane Monnig and Bryan Scrafford volunteered to lead this initiative.

8. Board Initiatives – FY 2025

Due to time constraints the Board limited discussion to those items identified by Board members as needing immediate discussion.

Jamie Gibbs gave a brief update on the status of the FA-DSB led Community Forums.

9. General Updates

There were no general updates shared.

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