

**Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)**  
**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 7:30pm**  
**Food for Others**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson.

**Members in Attendance:** Nermin AbdelWahab, Caroline Hockenberry, Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz, Morgan Jameson, Michelle Jefferson, Maria Leiva, Marcia McDevitt, Phil Rosenthal, Shari Zamarra, Ben Zuhl, Hawa Hassan, Ken McMillon, Matthew Bell, April Hall, Kevin Hickerson, Michael Mahrer

**Absent:** Heather Thomas, Sandra Barksdale, Alicia Doe, Alex Rodriguez, Michele Menapace, Mary Ann Floto, Hari Kurup, Ann McPherson, Whitney Richardson, Alice Yam

**Guest(s)/Staff:** Tresa Schlecht, Deb Haynes, Annie Turner, Anna Slaten

**Minutes – September, 2023**

The motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Michael Mahrer, seconded by Ken McMillon and was carried without objection.

**CAAB Member Sharing**

Shari Zamarra stated that realtors are finding homes for low-income community members. Senior housing on Braddock Road is opening in December.

Michael Mahrer shared that the Community Consolidated Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) heard testimony at their October meeting regarding the funding pool. Mr. Maher shared that the 2023 Fairfax County Community Needs Assessment was incorrect in that it did not fully reflect those that needed English language classes. Additionally, he shared that all English Empowerment Center classes are full. Region 8 for State and Fairfax County ACE programs are full.

Kevin Hickerson sponsors a club at Chantilly High School called, “Chargers for Children.” Students are looking for volunteer opportunities in the community. At the end of the last school year, they focused on spreading awareness about housing inequities and pay disparities in the community. If there are volunteer opportunities available for the students, please reach out to Kevin Hickerson or Michelle Jefferson.

Marcia McDevitt mentioned that there are very few services for veterans in the Herndon and Reston area. She is proposing that a resource sheet be created to leverage the services that are available.

Phil Rosenthal mentioned the Friends of Firefighters coat distribution is happening at the end of October across from Beacon mall.

Matt Bell mentioned the North Hill ribbon cutting event that occurred a few months ago. In September, townhome units were available for community members looking for affordable housing.

Michelle Jefferson stated that early voting is starting in Virginia on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please reach out to Heather Thomas for the coat drive.

Morgan Jameson provided information regarding the recent Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) meeting where they preliminarily approved an RFP process. Public comments will be

heard at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. For more information, visit CCFAC's page on the Fairfax County website.

### **Presentation: Executive Director of Food for Others**

Deb Haynes, Executive Director, and Annie Turner, former Executive Director, presented on the Food for Others program. Food for Others is both a food bank and a food pantry, meaning they warehouse and store food, handle distribution, and provide a food market. There are four core programs. The Emergency Referral Program provides emergency food assistance to an individual or a household referred by a social worker. In the referral program, Food for Others partners with a lot of social workers that provide referrals from CSP, Inova, schools, faith communities and a variety of places where families can be referred. Food for Others also partners with DoorDash to deliver food to families or individuals with emergency referrals.

Neighborhood sites are part of the emergency referral program, for example, a school social worker can put in a referral for a family and Food for Others can provide a truck in the community to distribute groceries. Food for Others also utilizes the USDA Federal program that provides households with two visits per month.

Community Partners and Purchase partners provide food for partner organizations like FACETS and Second Story to distribute food in the community. This helps community members who do not have reliable transportation.

Food for Others works with multilingual speakers, and volunteers can use a language line to help with any communication barriers for community members. Food for Others sources culturally appropriate and diverse foods to help meet religious needs. On average, Food for Others serves 250 families per day. They recently received a grant which allowed them to purchase a cart to offer community cooking and food preparation demonstrations to assist clients in learning various ways to cook and how to incorporate the food they are receiving within their cooking.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The CAAB will meet virtually via zoom on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. The January meeting will be in person on Tuesday January 2, 2024, at the Fairfax County Government Center.

### **Membership and Election Committee Report**

There are two open spots for membership.

### **Tour Food for Others Choice Marketplace**

CAAB members took a tour of the Choice Marketplace with Food for Others staff.

Motion to adjourn after the tour was made by Matt Bell, seconded by Ken McMillon.

Meeting adjourned 8:57pm