

**FAUQUIER COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
April 16, 2018**

**Attendance:**

Advisory Board: Paul McCulla, County Administrator; Jack Ledden, DSS Director; Beth Foddrell, PATH Foundation; Mittie Wallace, DSS Program Manager

Other: Laura Brown, DSS Program Manager; Mimi de Nicolas, DSS Program Manager; Azita Fetterer, DSS Administrative/Finance Manager; Erika Visnevskiaia, CSA Coordinator; Barbara Cook, DSS Senior Program Assistant

**The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. in the Janet Shannon Conference Room at DSS**

Mr. McCulla welcomed Ms. Foddrell to the Advisory Board.

The February meeting minutes were approved with one change made by Erika Visnevskiaia.

**Public Comment**

No public attendance.

**Department Overviews**

**Benefits – Laura Brown**

Ms. Brown presented a handout and briefly described key benefit programs as SNAP, TANF and Medicaid. She spoke in depth about the Medicaid ex parte renewal process, which automatically renews qualified adults with specific income criteria, but does not recognize or renew for those adults' covered children. State statistics on ex parte case renewals do not capture the need for many of those cases to still be manually renewed by workers for the child benefits to continue.

Virginia's expansion of Medicaid, if approved, is expected to create 1700 qualified applicants for Fauquier County, as well as increase ongoing case management load. She reports that using a pre-VACMS workload measures tool, it appears her team is understaffed. The group discussed the state's indication they will fund some 300 benefits workers statewide to facilitate Medicaid expansion, but the formula of distribution to the 120 localities is unknown. Mr. McCulla would like details, including cost sharing, with which to approach the Board of Supervisors about meeting DSS' needs to deal with the expansion.

**Family Services – Mimi De Nicolas**

Ms. de Nicolas reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Champions for Children 5K held last weekend. Over \$7,000 in total was raised. Many area sponsors contributed. There were 168 registered race participants. She discussed current statistics and cases. Two IV-E audits are coming up on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She expects they will go very well, as usual.

**Program Updates**

**DSS Administration Report and Budget Update – Azita Fetterer**

Ms. Fetterer is working on budget year-end matters for state and county fiscal years and reports that spending is on track and administrative budgets are under budget largely due to staff vacancies. As usual we will request additional funds for legal services since budgeted funds typically become depleted

in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. This year there is an uptick in court appeals. We did receive additional state funds: \$200,000 for IVE adoption (\$500,000 over the FY18 allocated budget).

The DSS Domestic Violence grant has unused salary funds due to vacancies that will be re-allocated. The final period for budget line transfers is coming up soon.

Ms. Fetterer has assisted with the financial component of recent audits, and will be participating in the IVE audit and Compliance audit in May. These are also internal audits. The administrative team had a perfect score for customer service in a recent SNAP audit.

With recent changes in VDSS's IT support and the ultimate end to their contract with Northrup Grumman for IT support for all agencies in December, we need to consider moving to county IT support. Some localities have been self-supported for years. The group discussed the matter briefly. Mr. McCulla would like a description of requirements that our IT department would need to evaluate opportunities and impediments to such a change. Mr. Ledden will prepare details.

Ms. Fetterer also mentioned the upcoming vacancies in two key positions due to the employees seeking advancement, and HR's policy of denying establishment of a career ladder for administrative staff.

#### **Adult Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy – Mittie Wallace**

The APS unit has been busy with as many as one or two reports received per day. With more older adults remaining at home, self-neglect and exploitation rates also increase. Area agencies apparently have stricter screening criteria for residential placement, resulting in clients who can perform ADLs on most or some days not qualifying for placement. Ms. Wallace will follow up on the issue.

A recent on site audit for the DCJS grant had no findings or recommendations.

The group discussed filling the newly created Adult Services worker position.

#### **Children's Services Administration (CSA) – Erika Visnevskia**

Ms. Visnevskia presented a handout of the CSA March expenditures and discussed categories that are over budget. Day placements are \$700,000 over budget. Mr. McCulla is aware of the ongoing issue and will seek appropriate funds from Schools to cover the overage.

Ms. Visnevskia alerted the Board to a frustrating situation regarding the intersection of federal, state and local monies for a child seeking residential treatment who currently resides in Fauquier, but was adopted from another jurisdiction. It appears that state adoption assistance negotiators are following IACCT recommendations rather than FAPT recommendations which contradicts current policy. FAPT has requested the family appeal the denial of adoption assistance based on state policy language

#### **Announcements**

Ms. de Nicolas stated that she has applied for a grant with Safe and Stable Families this year as a new POS program rather than an administrative plan.

#### **County Updates & Comments – Paul McCulla**

Mr. McCulla stated that the FY19 county budget includes a real estate tax increase, 18 additional fire and rescue positions, and three new positions, one of which is the DSS Adult Service Worker. A 1.4% COLA salary increase and 1% merit pay increase were also approved, as were additional school security positions and a school resource officer.

The group discussed the county's new Marathon Health Center, its positive early feedback, and the expected savings to the county on health costs. Mr. McCulla encourages all feedback be submitted to him by email.

Ms. Brown expressed her concerns regarding HR's recent review of positions for reclassification, the cancellation of meetings with staff, and the lack of response to follow up inquiries.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2018.**