

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
June 17, 2019**

APPROVED

Attendance:

Advisory Board: Paul McCulla, County Administrator; Janelle Downes, Director, Human Resources; Frank Finn, FCPS; Beth Foddrell, PATH Foundation; Erin Kozanecki, Director, OMB; Jack Ledden, Director, DSS

Other: Mittie Wallace, DSS Program Manager; Mimi de Nicolas, DSS Program Manager; Laura Brown, DSS Program Manager; Rochelle Ferguson, Domestic Violence Advocacy Service Worker; Catalina Minars, Social Services Associate; Guests: Carol Simpson, Aging Together; and Bob and Kathy Weigel, National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The meeting began at 4:01 p.m. in the DSS Janet Shannon Conference Room.

The minutes for the April 8, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

No public attendance.

Community Program Overviews

Aging Together – Carol Simpson, Executive Director,

Ms. Simpson informed us about the aging population growth all counties are experiencing. She also mentioned that these “Baby Boomers” are living longer, and some of them are raising their grandchildren. Ms. Simpson met with over 20 area physicians to educate them on available resources for their older patients. Aging Together promotes and organizes events for older adults such as the “Art of Aging” EXPO in which 540 participants connected with community resources from 65 exhibitors. Nearly 400 attendees benefitted from 10 county programs on topics such as medication use, avoiding scams/identity theft, how to use a cell phone, and driving as we age. Aging Together county teams grew to over 200 partners, including law enforcement, county officials, hospital representatives, and insurance brokers. Ms. Simpson is retiring, and the new Director, Ellen Phipps, will start on July 8, 2019.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – Kathy Weigel, President

NAMI Piedmont has a mission to provide support, education, and advocacy for individuals living with a mental illness, their families, and their friends. NAMI serves Fauquier, Culpeper, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties. The goals for NAMI Support Groups are to encourage, support and empower people, to provide this support confidentially and free of charge, and to provide support groups led by trained facilitators who are also family members of individuals living with mental illness. NAMI “Family-to-Family” is a free 12-session educational program for families and friends of individuals living with mental illness. Bob and Kathy Wiegel teach the program.

Program Updates

Adult Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy – Mittie Wallace, Program Manager

Ms. Wallace began by mentioning the department received 41 valid APS reports during the month of April, 37 for May, and 28 up to June 17, 2019. She received an email from Andrea Jones, APS Regional Specialist, letting her know that her Department has not had any late or dropped APS reports sent through the Hotline, meaning that her staff is doing things right and that all should feel good about that. Ms. Wallace reported on LTC screenings, service referrals, emergency shelter, and the two college

interns in the department for the summer. She mentioned the BG Board Strategic Planning Meeting accomplishments, such as the current two million dollar budget surplus compared to last year's \$100,000 deficit.

Rochelle Ferguson talked about the different projects the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program is working on such as the T-Shirt Program and the October T-Shirt display, the Walk a Mile in her Shoes, and the Candle Light Visual events.

Family Services – Mimi de Nicolas, Family Services Program Manager

Ms. de Nicolas mentioned the audits that have been taking place and how the agency is doing well on them. She talked about the agency's collaboration with The Gloria Fae Dingus Music Alliance to provide free musical instruments and classes to foster children.

She also mentioned the survey done on the Foster Care staff instructors Shawn LaRue and Carrie Smith and stated that they were very well rated.

Benefits Programs and Medicaid Expansion - Laura Brown, Program Manager

Ms. Brown spoke about federal standards for homeless individuals, which prompted them to initiate a "Point in Time Survey" to create awareness about the housing crisis in the community. This event will be on July 17 by the Jefferson Motel. Several churches will provide lunches and a \$5,000.00 grant, shared with Culpeper, will be used to buy and prepare gifts for homeless individuals.

Ms. Brown discussed discrepancies on the Dashboard Reports, considered like a "report card" on local agencies. She mentioned the three types of reports; 1) Report that we get locally, 2) Report that goes to the County Administration and the Board of Supervisors, and 3) Report that is on the public site. She wondered where the State gets the data since the child care data was incorrect, and suggested to use the user guide before reading the report. Mr. Ledden mentioned that the reports only commented on a piece of the agency so the statistics are misleading. He mentioned the idea to bring a State rep to the next board meeting so the board members can ask questions directly. Finally, Ms. Brown talked about Medicaid audits that began January 1st related to application processes and about the drastic changes on the VIEW Program.

Announcements & Board Members Comments

Mr. Ledden talked about the CSA statistics. These stats are half way through June, almost the end of the fiscal year. We have a 4.7 million dollar budget and it looks like expenses will come in around 4.3 million. He talked about the State increase for OSC expense reimbursement for facilities.

County Updates & Comments – Paul McCulla

Mr. McCulla talked about the Day Placement cost increase and the State's unwillingness to pay, creating an ongoing issue to figure out how we are going to handle Day Placements in our county or region and whether or not we can continue to try to flatten these costs by that method. He asked if we were still looking for a regional facility.

He mentioned that four of the five Board of Supervisors members are running unopposed, so they will be coming back with the exception of Mary Leigh McDaniel who has a challenger, so that will be the sole election issue at the Board level. The Sheriff is running unopposed and there are two people running for the Commissioner of the Revenue's office.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.