

**FAUQUIER COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
August 19, 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: Laura Brown, DSS Program Manager; Kathryn Johnston, DSS Administrative/Accounting Manager; Shawn LaRue, DSS Family Services Worker IV; Erika Visnevskaja, CSA Coordinator; Mittie Wallace, DSS Program Manager; Barbara Cook, DSS Senior Program Assistant; Guests: Linda Gibson and Will Hoff from the VDSS Northern Regional Office

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

The minutes for the June 17, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes.

Mr. McCulla introduced new Administrative/Accounting Manager Katie Johnston and welcomed her to DSS.

**Public Comment**

No public attendance.

**Dashboard Review**

Linda Gibson, Director of the VDSS Northern Regional Office, explained and demonstrated the online dashboards that provide statistical VDSS data at the local or state levels. The data assists in monitoring performance and trends. She demonstrated how to access both the publicly viewable data and the more in-depth agency dashboard data. She explained that VDSS is aware that some measures are inaccurate or misleading, such as the Medicaid applications timely processing percentages and the child care statistics. Such measures are being removed until they can be corrected. At this stage the dashboards are instrumental in gathering feedback and input on data compilation and generating discussions on better data sources and calculation processes for more accurate and useful data. Adult Services data is not yet displayed due to the transition of case data to PeerPlace but should be added in late FY19 or early FY20.

Will Hoff, Administrative Manager for the VDSS Northern Regional Office, demonstrated the dashboard displays for personnel and finance measures. The group discussed some of the challenges to maintaining the Local Employment Tracking System (LETS) so that the dashboard reflects accurate data.

Mr. Ledden provided a handout of the Dashboard Reference Guide.

**Program Updates**

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

Ms. Wallace reported on recent program statistics, with July having an all-time high of 56 valid APS reports received. The Domestic Violence Advocacy Program's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event is planned for October. She also reported that the group is now regularly being contacted by Court Services when there are cases where our services may be helpful.

### **Benefits Programs – Laura Brown**

Ms. Brown discussed several policy changes and other developments taking place. Coming soon is the implementation of SNAPET, which involves an educational requirement for certain SNAP recipients and may require some restructuring of staff assignments to handle the mandate. Another change is to the income calculations for Medicaid eligibility, which will now differ from the income methodology for SNAP eligibility. Next month there will be internal reviews of SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid cases.

### **Children’s Services Administration – Erika Visnevskaja**

Ms. Visnevskaja reported on current case levels in each funding category. She also advised that the number of families scheduled for FAPT meetings has increased over time to about 36 cases each month, including not only children with a mandate, but families seeking guidance and families referred via the court. The residential placement case load has increased, despite conservative criteria for placements. These youth are also struggling with more profound and significant aggressive behaviors. Finally, it was noted that schools continue to be diligent in managing day placements.

### **Family Services – Shawn LaRue**

Reporting on behalf of Mimi DeNicolas, who could not attend, Shawn LaRue stated that CPS reports are coming in from the schools now that the school year has begun. The team is becoming more familiar with new J&DR District Court judge, Melissa Cupp. She reported that using the PATH meeting space for the Foster Care training classes has been a great help to the training program. She reported on the success of the Foster Care family spring event at the Flying Circus Air show, a more recent event at that venue, and that work is underway already for the Foster Care Christmas programs. They are also looking at revisions to the Champions for Children 5K Run next spring. Mr. Ledden also mentioned that the Family Partnership Meetings have become more time consuming due to the requirement for meetings at points other than for critical decisions. This has created a need for more trained facilitators.

### **Announcements & Board Member Comments**

None

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

Mr. McCulla addressed comments in a news article about the recent Point-in-Time count. He will follow up with Department Heads as well on how to deal with the media.

He reminded the group of the upcoming budget process and stated that with the current indicators of a possible recession, the decisions on budget allowances could well be affected. He suggested that the dashboard data should be corrected and maintained for accuracy since it is likely to be reviewed during budget considerations.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019 at 4:00 pm.**