

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
October 21, 2019**

APPROVED

Attendance:

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

Other: Laura Brown, DSS Program Manager; Mimi de Nicolas, DSS Program Manager; Kathryn Johnston, DSS Administrative/Accounting Manager; Erika Visnevskaja, CSA Coordinator; Mittie Wallace, DSS Program Manager; Barbara Cook, DSS Senior Program Assistant; Guests: Denise Wright and Thomas Dodson from Birmingham Green

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m. in the DSS Janet Shannon Conference Room.

The minutes for the August 19, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

No public attendance.

Community Program Overview

Birmingham Green Presentation – Denise Wright, CEO and Thomas Dodson, Senior VP for Community Relations spoke to the group about Birmingham Green’s many service offerings, its history and growth beginning in 1927, recent accomplishments and awards, and the organization’s mission and goals. A continuing goal is to perform beyond required levels to achieve quality awards. On behalf of Fauquier County, Mr. McCulla thanked them for all of the quality work they are doing that benefits our county and for their dedication and achievements. Ms. Wright acknowledged and thanked Ms. Kozanecki and Ms. Wallace as a Birmingham Green Board member and an alternate member respectively.

Program Updates

Adult Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy – Mittie Wallace

Ms. Wallace discussed the complexity of APS and AS cases, the trend for adults without children remaining at home longer and an uptick in hoarding behaviors. Interns and volunteers are assisting with programs and services. The DV Advocacy Program staff has been busy with numerous outreach and fundraising events, all of which were successful and well attended. In particular, the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event received good publicity and community support.

Benefits Programs and Medicaid Expansion - Laura Brown

Ms. Brown spoke about new program requirements for Medicaid and SNAPET, and a recent state review of SNAP and TANF/VIEW cases, the first since the VACMS record system was implemented. The results were very good in light of the ongoing adaptations and learning curve for VACMS. Key staff will be attending a professional conference and the Payment Accuracy workshop this week. She offered to provide any special statistics to the group as desired that may not be available on the web dashboard or departmental reports.

Children’s Services Administration – Erika Visnevskaja

Ms. Visnevskaja discussed case volumes and expenditures to date in comparison to last year at this time. While the number of some case types is down, spending is up, with the primary increase being in Day

Placements. Current trends are towards behavioral issues without mental health issues, and more needed services per child creating higher expenses. The group also discussed the state's Family Satisfaction Survey.

Family Services – Mimi de Nicolas

Ms. de Nicolas said that CPS reporting levels are even, but more intense services are often needed. The recent statewide IV-E review of 78 cases across Virginia included 3 case reviews for Fauquier. Our error-free cases helped the state pass the review under the statewide 5 error limit, ensuring that Federal funding to Virginia for all programs (IV-E and otherwise) is maintained. She also mentioned continuing to work closely with Judge Cupp and some improvements in legal processes. Increasing mandates that create new work tasks and a heavy load with Foster Care has necessitated some staff reassignments, but the unit continues to have difficulty keeping up with workloads.

Announcements & Board Member Comments

None

County Updates & Comments – Paul McCulla

Mr. McCulla expressed his admiration for DSS staff for their involvement and achievements with the various state reviews that take time away from core duties. He stated that the favorable outcomes speak well of DSS staff.

He also stated that departmental budget submissions for FY21 have been received and the review process has begun.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

Next Meeting December 9, 2019