

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
February 24, 2020**

APPROVED

Attendance:

Advisory Board: Paul McCulla, County Administrator; Frank Finn, FCPS; Beth Foddrell, PATH Foundation; 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

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

The minutes for the December 9, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

No public attendance.

County Updates & Comments – Paul McCulla

Mr. McCulla discussed his proposed County Budget for fiscal year 2020-21, which will be released later this week.

Program Updates

Admin Support – Katie Johnston

Ms. Johnston said that assistance and services checks are now being generated through the county's Bright system and those involved are fine tuning the process to include a clear description for each check. She is working with VDSS on a financial review and is obtaining clarification on whether certain expenses are reimbursable or not.

Adult Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy – Mittie Wallace

Ms. Wallace stated that the number of new APS reports is increasing every month. Each investigation can take from 5 to 30 hours to complete. DV clients are also increasing. In just the last two months we gained 39 new clients. The support group now has a number of men attending and the team is working on starting a separate support group for them.

Benefits Programs and Medicaid Expansion - Laura Brown

Ms. Brown has been working with schools, FISH, FCCC and PATH Foundation on the No Kid Hungry program which will be piloted this summer in Fauquier County at M.M. Pierce Elementary. The program is open to any child in the county. No county funds are required for this year's pilot program but could be helpful to the program if available. She also described the efforts underway to acquire digital signs for both DSS waiting areas to disseminate various benefit and program information to clients. Funding was discussed. The Benefits division currently has one staff vacancy. Staff have been busy with new SNAP Employment and Training requirements, which recently went into effect for our jurisdiction.

Children's Services Administration – Erika Visnevskaja

Ms. Visnevskaja reported that caseloads are up in almost every service category, and while spending is over budget overall, SPED WRAP is within budget. Ms. Visnevskaja advised that all currently

encumbered funds in the day placement category may not be ultimately spent. CPMT will be selecting new private provider representatives for the FAPT and CPMT teams in May to begin their terms in July. OCS has put together Regional Evidence-Based Learning Collaboratives and Fauquier has a team of CPMT & FAPT members attending in April.

Family Services – Mimi de Nicolas

Ms. de Nicolas reported that her division is busy working on numerous adoptions and has eight cases in circuit court. This year's Champion for Children 5K Run to raise funds for foster care children's programs will be April 11 and 12 and is a virtual race this year. The same number of participants and sponsorships are expected, with much less staff time and support fees required. Ten families are enrolled in the next foster parent training class. The group discussed termination of parental rights cases (TPR) being appealed to Circuit Court.

Announcements & Board Member Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 20, 2020