

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
October 19, 2020**

Approved

Attendance:

Advisory Board: Paul McCulla, County Administrator; Janelle Downes, Director, Human Resources; Frank Finn, FCPS; Beth Foddrell, PATH Foundation; Erin Kozanecki, Deputy County Administrator; Shel Bolyard-Douglas, Director, DSS

Other: Laura Brown, DSS Program Manager; Mimi de Nicolas, DSS Program Manager; Kathryn Johnston, DSS Administrative/Accounting Manager; Erika Visnevskaja, DSS CSA Coordinator; Cindy Giles, Adult Service Worker III; Sherri Carr, DSS Senior Program Assistant

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m. in the DSS Janet Shannon Conference Room. A quorum was reached with Mr. McCulla Ms. Kozanecki , Ms. Douglas and Mr. Finn physically present. The other attendees participated virtually.

The minutes for the August 17, 2020 meeting were approved with one change on Erin Kozanecki new job title.

Public Comment

No public attendance.

Community Updates & Comments-Paul McCulla

Fauquier County continues to deal with Coronavirus. Mr. McCulla thanks departments and staff for all the work they do to socially distance. The few months ahead will be tougher with the flu season among us. We need to continue to be wearing mask and socially distance.

Program Updates

Administration Support- Kathryn Johnston

Ms. Johnson is working on setting-up desk sharing. The Cares Act funding started in October. Staff have received several phone calls asking about rent, mortgage, and utility help. The department is optimizing spending for Quarter two. Sherri Carr was promoted to Senior Program Assistant.

Adult Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy – Cindy Giles

Reporting on behalf of Mittie Wallace, who could not attend. Ms.Giles reported staff are going into homes and exercising precautions. Nursing homes and hospitals are closed for face to face visits. Companion Providers are attending a training on Precaution PPE. Safe Dates Training is taking place now in county schools. Ms. Douglas shared Safe Date is virtual with all 3 high schools and 275 students at one time. Staff will present finding to the board when project is done.

Children’s Services Administration – Erika Visnevskaja

Ms. Visnevskaja talked about FY 20 closing budget for CSA. FY 21 numbers of some case types down at this time. FAPFT continues to run smoothly via videoconference. Parents are providing positive feedback and more student participation in FAPFT meetings. CSA conference virtual is at the end of the month.

Family Services – Mimi de Nicolas

Ms. De Nicolas said CPS is ranked #1 in the Northern Region with placing children at risk. Mandated reporters have a 24 hour state portal to enter referrals in. IV-E Families First will provide funding for all prevention services effective January 1, 2021. CSA has only one staff worker to work on this new policy. Ms. de Nicolas stated she will need another worker to accomplish this task.

Benefits Programs and Medicaid Expansion - Laura Brown

Ms. Brown spoke about the holiday program Toys for Tots is starting. Benefit team has one worker out on maturity leave and one vacant BPS2. The Snap program was waived today on not performing new interviews and renewal. Medicaid case worker can't make changes, take action, close or renew cases at the present time. On January 21, 2020 benefit workers are going to see increase in workload to updated these cases. The self-direct process was put in place with Medicaid Family and Children. Clients are given eligibility without using a worker. Half of these applications are going through self-direct with the locality needing to maintain them. The board approved the new GR income guidelines presented by Ms. Brown.

Announcements & Board Member Comments

Ms. Douglas reported Family First Prevention Act starts January 1, 2021. DSS budgeted one position to fill this role. Everything was put on hold due to COVID- 19. CPS still has to fulfill the workload of the program requirements without the budgeted position.

An allocation budget will need to be submitted from any outside agencies that are requesting a contribution from DSS.

Mr. Finn stated hybrid model will start November 9, 2020 in Fauquier schools. Some students will be in the classroom 2 days a week while others are still virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Next Meeting Date: February 15, 2021