

FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
June 21, 2021

Approved

Attendance:

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

Other: Mimi de Nicolas, DSS Program Manager; Kathryn Johnston, DSS Administrative/Accounting Manager; Mittle Wallace, DSS Program Manager; Erika Visnevskala, DSS CSA Coordinator; Sherri Carr, DSS Senior Program Assistant

The meeting began at 4:01 p.m. in the Warren Green Building. A quorum was reached with Ms. Kozanecki and Ms. Douglas present. The other attendees participated virtually.

The minutes for the April 19, 2021 meeting were approved.

Community Updates & Comments-Erlin Kozanecki

Erlin Kozanecki was appointed the Chairperson to the DSS Advisory Board. All Fauquier employees will receive a 3% adjustment on July 1, 2021. The Board will reassess and possible a 2% will happen on January 1, 2022.

Program Updates

Administration Support- Kathryn Johnston

Ms. Johnson talked about the successful close out for the State Fiscal year. She talked about many highlights and how DSS will continue that trend into FY 22. Thomas Brother CSA and DSS module have been merged together. This will help with efficient reporting in LASE and LEDRS. IT has installed all but one piece of our new equipment for the conference room. Ms. Kozanecki added that if all the equipment has been installed in the conference room by the August meeting date. All Board should be in person for the meetings.

Family Services – Mimi de Nicolas

Ms. De Nicolas presented stats for CPS Program. THC will be legal on July 1, 2021. How will it impact CPS? How is the State and Agency going to handle this new law? New funding for Family First worker will be hired soon. Bob Beard will be retiring after 18 years at the end of October. Ms. De Nichols and Ms. Douglas will meeting with new lawyers in July.

Benefits Programs and Medicaid Expansion –

Helen Walters has been hired for the Benefit Program Manager. Ronshelle Johnson was been hired as a BPS1 and Sabina Gundros. as a BPS2. Sharon Allen, Martha Huffman and Danette Jones were introduced as the new Superiors for the Benefit Team.

Ms. Allen talked about Auxillary Grant program. They had their first ever Quality Control Review in April. The results were no corrective action plan required but did fine some small issues. The staff did some extra training to help correct the small finding. The Cooling Assistant Program runs from June 15 2021 to August 16, 2021. Ms. Allen went over the guidelines of this program.

Ms. Jones presented a new policy and talked about open enrollment for Medicaid. A Dental Plan will start on July 1, 2021.

Ms. Huffman talked about the new policy on July 1 that could increase their caseload. Screening income levels will be at 200 percent. July will be the last month for receiving an increased allotment amount. Management Evaluation showed some issues in how the notices are being sent out to customers. Program changes for View, IVE and TANF start July 1, 2021.

Adult Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy-Mittle Wallace

Ms. Wallace went over stats for her program. She noted they have seen an increase in family violence. The Companion Program lost some care givers during this COVID period. They are down to 6 companions and have 27 people on the waiting list.

DV is now back in person for their support groups. Support groups have 15 to 20 adults and 5-8 children in attendance. Celebrating 5 years in the Fauquier school, Safe Date was held at Liberty High School with 479 ninth graders virtual and in person.

Children's Services Administration (CSA)-Erika Visnevskala

Ms. Visnevskala provided stats for CSA. CSA is staying within budget for the fiscal year. Jenny White, CSA Administrative Specialist has left the program. FAPT will be hybrid in July. Ms. Douglas asked Ms. Foddrell if she would help get communication out to help get a parent volunteer on the FAPT team. Ms. Foddrell agreed to help.

Announcements & Board Member Comments

Ms. Kozanecki announced in the next six months Ms. Douglas will take her place on Birmingham Green Board

Ms. Douglas expressed a big thank you to Ms. De Nichols for coordinating the new attorney team.

Thank you Ms. Downes and her team with all the recruitments, compensation pieces and 18 career latter.

Ms. Douglas is concerned for people who have been getting the maximum allocation for Snap. We can see a lot of complaint and concerns. Ms. Douglas is looking for suggestions on any help on this matter. Ms. Foddrell asks for a quick summary to share for budgeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Next Meeting Date: August 16, 2021