

FAUQUIER COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
June 15, 2022

Approved

**Attendance:**

Advisory Board: Erin Kozanecki, Deputy County Administrator; Shel Bolyard-Douglas, Director, Beth Foddrell, PATH Foundation Absent: Janelle Downes and Nick Napolitano

Other: Helen Walters, DSS Program Manager, Kathryn Johnston, DSS Administrative/Accounting Manager; Mittie Wallace, DSS Program Manager, Sherri Carr, DSS Senior Program Assistant, Shannon Wilkinson, Foster Care and Adoption Supervisor.

The meeting began at 11:05 a.m. in the DSS conference room. A quorum was reached with Ms. Kozanecki, Ms. Douglas, Ms. Foddrell and present. Other attendees participated virtually.

The minutes for April were approved. .

**Community Updates & Comments-Erin Kozanecki**

Ms. Kozanecki talked about the new fiscal year starts July 1 with no formal State budget yet. Dr. Avula Commissioner of Social Services will be visiting the agency on July 6. All Board members have been invited to participate.

**Program Updates**

**Administration Support- Kathryn Johnston**

As of May 31, The agency has spent 96 percent of the FY22 budget. DSS had to increase their fiscal budget 15 percent. Ms. Johnston went over total DSS spending figures for the year.

**Family Services –Shannon Wilkinson**

Ms. Wilkinson talked about the two child fatalities in the county since the last boarding meeting. The team met with a mental health professional. Staff are participating in upcoming trainings on the different policies effective July 1. Conversations have started regarding substance exposed infants, how to best provide services to them, how to report and screen with new staff in the maternity and delivery unit at Fauquier Hospital. Ms. Wilkinson presented foster care stats. The unit will be fully staffed on Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

**Benefits Programs and Medicaid Expansion –Helen Walters.**

Lena Neighbors has been hired for the Screener/ Pender position. Lena was previously employed with our team. The Snap interview waiver has been extended till September 30. Ms. Walters does not know if the Public Emergency will be extended yet. We are seeing an uptick in applications due to the economy especially in the Snap program.

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

Ms. Wallace went over department stats for APS and DV. Seniors who meet the criteria in long term screening to transfer to a nursing home would rather stay at home. Seniors staying in their homes add more case management for our team. In a recent study requested by DARS called "Weathering the Storm". Fauquier APS staff were rated in the top five localities in the Northern Region in timely investigations in the pre-COVID, COVID and COVID lockdown periods. Top two in the category less than ten percent over due during those periods. Ms. Wallace applauded her staff.

DV continues with Safe Dates in March with 9<sup>th</sup> graders at Fauquier High School. Ms. Wallace is in the process of filling two DV vacancies.

**Children's Services Administration (CSA)- Shel Douglas**

Michael Mahoney verbally accepted the CSA Coordinator job. His first day in the building will be July 5, 2022. Lisa Trapani and Mimi deNicolas have been keeping the CSA program going.

**Announcements & Board Member Comments**

Nick Napolitano has completed his Advisory Board training.

Dr. Avula will be here at our agency on July 6 to take a tour and formal set down with managers, supervisors and Board members.

Ms. Foddrell thanked Helen Walters and Martha Huffman for provided information around the extension of the Snap benefits and Medicaid to the Path Board. This helps PATHS to get ready for the next grant cycle.

**Next Meeting Date: October 19, 2022**