

CITY OF FAIRFAX HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2022

Attendance: Carolyn Sutterfield, Sandra Slappey, Judith Turcott, Andre Lee, Debbie DeFalco, Frank Franz, Lesley Abashian(staff)

Absent: Andrew Wankum, Suzane Levy, Anita Light

1. Lamb Center Project

Lesley provided an update on the Lamb Center's permanent supportive housing program proposed at Fairfax Circle. The presentation of the proposed development along with the public hearing will occur by the end of the year.

2. Fairfax Village in the City

Anita and Carolyn provided an update on the Village, encouraging committee members to consider becoming a Village volunteer.

3. Co-Responder Team Development

The City is moving forward with the development of the Co-Responder team which will include 2 CIT trained officers, a community paramedic and a community response clinician. A presentation to Mayor and City Council in late September was well received and the project has full support of City Council.

4. Sustainability Grants for Safety Net Nonprofits

City Council allocated \$200,000 of ARPA funding to Human Services. Out of those funds, the City is releasing a grant opportunity for human services safety net nonprofits focused on assisting these

5. Goal(s) for FY 23

Lesley requested that committee members consider what we should be focusing on in 2023. Pointed out that although each member was appointed to a regional or Fairfax County board or commission, that it was

important that the Human Services Committee collectively worked together.

1. **Committee Member Reports**

Committee members provided their quarterly reports.

Some highlights include:

- Disability Services Board. Judith reported that this Board continues to be focused on increasing housing options for individuals with disabilities, insuring local government buildings are ADA compliant (for accessibility), efforts to increase regional transportation options, voting accessibility, and alternative hiring process for individuals with disabilities.
- Library Board: Suzanne reported that the regional library is hosting a Medicare 101 presentation on November 1 from 3-4:30.
- Juvenile Relations Advisory Council: Frank discussed a recent uptick in youth charged with violent or serious offenses. Currently there are 28 youth in Juvenile Detention. Efforts to provide diversion for “low risk youth” charged with minor crimes has resulted in lower probation officer caseloads.
- Council on Aging: Carolyn reported that the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) was completed earlier in the year. The results will be used to guide the SHAPE strategic framework. CASOA had a 13% response rate. Carolyn asked the County for City data from the CASOA but hasn’t received yet.
- Social Services Advisory Board: Andre reported that Fairfax County (through Coordinated Service Planning) has distributed \$93.3 million in federal rental assistance to residents. City residents’ had to apply for assistance through the state’s rental assistance program. Andre discussed that 36% of the county’s homicides in 2022 were related to domestic violence- this is a statistic that the county is playing close attention to.
- Community Services Board: Sandra reported that the CSB continues to experience workforce challenges. Currently the CSB has 142

vacancies (which is down from 181 in April). The continuing hospital bed crisis and the opioid epidemic continue to impact the local community.