**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**

**DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING NOTES**

Date: June 1, 2021

Location: Development Services Building, Room 107A/B

Recorder: Tracy Solomon, PW Area Agency on Aging

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Mike Bizik, Occoquan District

Laura Feld-Mushaw, Occoquan District

Lillian Garland, Neabsco District

Bonnie Klakowicz, Woodbridge District

Teresa Belcher, Gainesville District

Sarah Pitkin, Coles District

Gregory Powell, At-Large

Lisa Schumann, Brentsville District

Karen Smith, Potomac District

Barbara Tate, Gainesville District

Visitors: None

1. Call to Order 7:00 P.M. Karen Smith, Chair
2. Welcome Karen Smith, Chair
3. Pledge of Allegiance Karen Smith, Chair
4. Citizens Time: Laura Hill. This was the first time Laura was joining the meetings. She would like to educate others on the accessibility of those that are hearing impaired in the Community. Laura joins us from NY but is planning to move to VA asap.
5. Review of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting were approved:

Motion: Lillian Garland; Seconded: Sarah Pitkin

1. Guest Speaker Norma Sanchez, Dept of Social Services;Public Assistance
2. Norma explained the two Divisions within BFCC gave a brief summary of the different programs. !2,000 plus on SNAP in Prince William County.
3. Norma discussed the interview component to SNAP. This interview usually occurs over the phone with the recipient. SNAP does require some reporting to stay eligible otherwise the recipient may have to pay back benefits received.
4. During COVID-19 recipients received max benefits of $197 per month per household.
5. Broad based Categorially Eligibility is coming available in July 2021. This will only require paperwork to be completed every 3 years..
6. Ms. Sanchez explained the TANF Program. TANF is cash assistance for families with children under the age of 18. She covered eligibility and application process.
7. TANF is a time-limited benefit, maximum of 60 month lifetime benefit with 5 years max. There are less than 3,000 receiving this benefit in PWC.
8. The Refugee Assistance Program provides cash assistance and Medicaid coverage to individuals who meet the definition of a refugee. Since 1975, the Office of Newcomer Services has resettled more than 50,000 refugees in VA. This number is expected to grow. Refugee cash assistance is time limited to 8 months. Application takes up to 30 days to process.
9. Norma touched on the Employment and Childcare Programs available to those that are eligible.
10. The Energy Assistance Program(EAP) assists low income households with meeting their immediate home energy needs in the Summer and Winter months. The EAP consists of four components: Weatherization, Fuel Assistance, Crisis and Cooling Assistance.
11. Ms. Sanchez spoke briefly on the other Internal Services the DSS has. They consist of Customer Service, Call Center, Training & Development along with Fraud Investigation and Compliance.
12. Norma will provide the 1-800 number for those that may have further questions about Medicaid as well as her email for any questions about the information covered in the presentation.
13. Old Business Karen Smith, Chairman
    1. Sarah Henry and Karen Smith have made several attempts to be in contact with Congressman Connolly’s office regarding the planning a meeting with the SSA, but have been unsuccessful. Sarah will continue to reach out.
    2. Supervisor Bailey has a monthly meeting addressing the money that the County has put into Transportation.

1. New Business Karen Smith, Chairman

-None

1. Host Agency Updates Sarah Henry, Director
2. Sarah said our focus as an Agency is on the reopening of the Senior Centers. She wanted to make sure she was very clear on the lifting of restrictions set forth from COVID-19 before making a decision and announcing to the public with a specific date. Sarah anticipated the decision would come with-in a week or so.
3. Mrs. Henry addressed our Social Workers in regards to the home visits being reinstated at some point in the future but with no definitive date as of yet.
4. Sarah spoke on the NWD funding and how the Agency has worked with other County Depts to give better assess to services provided within the County and State using grant funds.
5. Sarah addressed the Board asking if they would like to appoint another Vice Chair to the group.
6. Sarah proposed giving recognition to Paul Wisenberger for his years of service and said she would look more into that.
7. Sarah mentioned working with the Feeding Task Force during the Pandemic and working with other County Depts to address food insecurity for the future.
8. Mrs. Henry asked the Board what topic they would like to have for the next meeting.
9. Sarah mentioned that WEB-X may not be an option for the next meeting. She will be in touch with the Board about this.

1. Member Time and Announcements
2. Mike Bizik felt that Bel Air Elementary should be named after Al Brooks.
3. Mike Bizik has done visual inspections on the parking lots @ RT123 & 95, feels they need more disabled parking spaces. He has also looked at Chinn Center.
4. Teresa shared how she got connected to the Board and how she’s excited to be here.
5. Bonnie Klakowicz commented on accessing services on Medicaid for her disabled child. Her child does works and has had trouble receiving benefits from Medicaid. Mom wants to prepare her child for when something happens to her. Barbara Tate offered to assist her with getting her questions answered.
6. Lillian Garland shared some about her operation and her observations on chain stores and how many ride on chairs they provide.
7. Laura Feld-Mushaw commented on fantastic the presentation was.
8. Adjournment

* Karen adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.
* The next meeting will occur on August 3, 2021 at 7:00pm