



MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2026

7:00 P.M.

Manassas Senior Center, Manassas, VA

**ABSENT FROM MEETING*

*** ATTENDED MEETING VIRTUALLY*

Earlier this evening, the Department of Social Services Advisory Board (DSS AB) held their annual Judges' Dinner. Presentations were given during dinner on Preventive Services, by Heather Mesimer and Assistant Director Lena Purifoy from the Advocacy, Prevention and Protection Division.

Open Meeting

Chair Laurie Wilson opened the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Approval of Minutes-

The minutes from the April 21st, 2026, meeting were approved [JM, CF; 4 approved, 2 abstained – LW and CT abstained due to absence from the April meeting]. The minutes from the July 21st, 2026, meeting were approved [IOC, CF; 5 approved, 1 abstained – JM abstained due to absence from the July meeting].

Public Comment

None

Action Items

None

Chairman's Time

Chair Laurie Wilson announced changes to membership, including the resignation of At-Large Member, Melissa Agnew Alexander. Chair Jefferson gave her Notice of Intent to Appoint Allison Blow at the September 1st Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) meeting; the appointment will appear on the September 22nd BOCS agenda.

Members who wish to resign from the Board are encouraged to send email notification to the members' Supervisor, as well as the DSS AB Chair and Clerk.

Chair Wilson asked that attendance policy changes to the Charter discussed at previous DSS AB meetings be brought to the October meeting for a vote.

Director's Time

- Budget season begins at the end of September.
- On October 6th, DSS will meet with the BOCS and put forth a resolution to request funding for 18 new DSS positions in FY27.
- With the upcoming H.R. 1 Medicaid changes and SNAP work requirements, the Director and staff have been focusing on meeting with community partners to ensure they are aware of

the changes. They have scheduled several meetings through December, updated the DSS website, and distributed flyers to the community.

- Hypothermia shelters open on November 1, 2026 - 45 days from now. The Homeless Navigation Center (HNC)-West is not done but progressing quickly; a walk-through for HNC-East is scheduled with the Director this week.
- National Adoption Day Celebration will begin 10:00 AM on Saturday, November 21st, 2026, at the Judicial Center.

Board Members' Time

- Idris O'Connor – announced Saturday, October 10th, the Bill Mehr Drop-in Center/Shelter will hold its annual banquet.
- Jacob Mosser – Scouting for Food will occur in November where Scouts will leave door tags requesting food donations on the first Saturday and pick up the second Saturday. The food is then donated to local shelters and schools.
- La Tonya Hamilton-Thompson – reported that she will be attending one of the Virginia Department of Social Services' trainings on H.R. 1.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

MOTION made to adjourn the meeting [CT, CF; unanimous]. Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.

APPROVED: _____



Clerk to Board