Board of Supervisors
Health and Human Services Committee
January 28, 2025 9:30-11 a.m.
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 11

Meeting Summary

Board Members Present

Jeffrey McKay (Chairman); Andres Jimenez (Mason District); Dalia Palchik (Committee Chairman, Providence District); Walter Alcorn (Hunter Mill District); James Bierman (Dranesville District); Rodney Lusk (Franconia District); Kathy Smith (Vice Chairman, Sully District); Daniel Storck (Mount Vernon); and James Walkinshaw (Braddock District).

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Supervisor Palchik called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and opened the meeting with a review of the agenda. The October meeting summary was reviewed and approved unanimously.

Item 1. Early Childhood Update

The first item was an update on early childhood, which was presented by Keisha Dotson (Deputy Director, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services) and Lisa Pilson (Director of Early Childhood Curriculum & Grant Management, FCPS). They presented on the comprehensive vision of the early childhood system, how the Ready Region Capital Area is creating a unified early childhood system, and data on early childhood program supply and projected future demand. They also shared information about publicly-funded early childhood programs, capital improvement projects that will increase capacity, and the Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

Board members asked questions about mixed delivery, current capacity, outcome measures, eligibility and barriers to access, and the Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

Item 2. Park Authority Equity Implementation Plan

The second item was a presentation on the Park Authority's Equity Implementation Plan, which was presented by Jai Cole (Executive Director, Park Authority), Sara Baldwin (Deputy Director, Park Authority), and Kiel Stone (Chair, Park Authority Board). The presenters reviewed the implementation timeline and data on how reliance on fees has impacted participation. Their findings show that cost is the top barrier to access and recommended implementing a sliding fee scale to provide more equitable access. The presenters shared the costs and the proposed timeline to implement a sliding fee scale. They also shared that they are working on a new registration system and income verification strategies.

Board members then asked questions about IT and communications needs, additional barriers like distance and transportation, a revenue-neutral sliding scale, and equitable access for older adults.

Adjournment

The committee meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.