

Frederick County Social Services Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

- March 26, 2025
- Department of Social Services, 1888 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21703

I. Call to Order

- Ed Hinde called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

II. Attendance

Board Members

- Ed Hinde, Chair
- Chris Kimberly, Vice Chair (5:22)
- Lysmariam Valladares-Pena, Treasurer
- Elizabeth Etouke, Secretary
- Cheryl Back
- Casey Day
- Dave Drezner
- Natalie Gipson
- Patrick Hammett
- Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon
- Jenifer Zimmer

Others In Attendance

- Debbie Marini, FC DSS Director
- Renee Knapp, Council Liaison
- Jen Long, Foster Care, DSS
- _____
- _____

III. Approval of the Agenda

- The draft agenda was presented by Ed Hinde.
- Dave Drezner made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Pat Hammett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Record of Vote:

Name	Yea	Nay	Name	Yea	Nay
Cheryl Back	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Hinde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casey Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Kimberly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Drezner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Etouke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lysmariam Valladares-Pena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Gipson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenifer Zimmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Hammett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- Draft minutes of the previous meeting were shared by the secretary with the membership prior to the meeting.

- The secretary made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Elizabeth Etouke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Record of Vote:

Name	Yea	Nay	Name	Yea	Nay
Cheryl Back	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Hinde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casey Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Kimberly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Drezner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Etouke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lysmariam Valladares-Pena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Gipson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenifer Zimmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Hammett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

V. Presentation

Jen Long from the Foster Care Department at DSS shared information with the Board. She shared that they have been working on some programs from the state. One is the Safe Babies program with the court system. It is for children 0-3 and is an intensive program. They are seeing that numbers to permanence are shortening, which is a good indicator. Within the last year, they were able to facilitate the START (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team) program with needed cases as well. Newer regulations that have been created have provided more support for Kinship Care. FCDSS is in the process of transferring an individual into a position to oversee and coordinate Kinship Care. Currently there are 48 children in Foster Care in Frederick County. There are an additional 5-6 in ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) care that require Frederick County supervision. Overall this is slightly lower than the previous year. Ms. Long shared that approximately 15 years ago, when she began, there were 175 children in care. The additional support and initiatives for family preservation are helping reduce these numbers. Currently, in Frederick County, there are 31 licensed foster homes, 7 licensed ICPC families, and 8 licensed kinship homes. This fiscal year (July to present) there have been 20 entries into care, 11 adoption finalizations, 1 youth achieving independence, 11 reunifications, and 4 closed to custody and guardianship. She shared themes of challenges she's seeing. These include orthodontic work (unfunded through medical assistance), increasing numbers of undocumented youth (medical appointments, attorneys, etc.), immediate needs for kinship care (beds, etc.), transportation for visitation, trips to the FCDSS office, appointments and therapies. The Board discussed some nonprofit groups that could be supportive. Ms. Long also shared that they are still in need of more foster care families. Nearly a quarter of the children are in therapeutic residential placement or group homes out of county due to lacking foster homes.

VI. Reports

- **Recruitment**
 - No meetings were held since the last Board Meeting.
- **Fundraising & Support**
 - No meetings were held since the last Board Meeting.
- **Public Policy and Advocacy**
 - No meetings were held since the last Board Meeting.
- **Director's Report**
 - Ms. Marini shared that at this time, there have been no funding cuts from the federal government. It is reported that the state budget will be very tight. Ms. Marini mentioned possible cuts in P10 funds, which center around workforce services.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- Grants
 - Ed Hinde shared that we currently have four grants out for support of respite care. These include the City of Frederick Community Promotion, the Annual Giving Circle Grant, the MASSB grant, and the Community Foundation Rolling Grant.
 - The MASSB grant was awarded for \$750 to cover website hosting fees.
 - Natalie Gipson made a motion to authorize Ed Hinde to send a letter outlining receiving the funds from MASSB (attached). Elizabeth Etouke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Record of Vote:

Name	Yea	Nay	Name	Yea	Nay
Cheryl Back	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Hinde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casey Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Kimberly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Drezner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Etouke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lysmariam Valladares-Pena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Gipson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenifer Zimmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Hammett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

VI. Comments and Announcements:

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at the Department of Social Services building located at 1888 N. Market Street, Frederick.

VII. Public Comment

- No members of the public were in attendance.

VIII. Adjournment

- Elizabeth Etouke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenifer Zimmer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Record of Vote:

Name	Yea	Nay	Name	Yea	Nay
Cheryl Back	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Hinde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casey Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Kimberly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Drezner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Etouke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lysmariam Valladares-Pena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Gipson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenifer Zimmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Hammett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.