

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING NOTES**

Date: October 1, 2024
Location: Development Services Building, Room 107 A/B
Recorder: Laura Halo, Prince William Area Agency on Aging

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDING:

Teresa Belcher, Gainesville District
Lillian Garland, Neabsco District
Carly McDowell, Woodbridge
District Sarah Pitkin, Coles District
Justin Wilk, At-Large
Karen Smith, Chair

- I. Call To Order Karen Smith, Chairperson
- II. Pledge of Allegiance Karen Smith, Chairperson
- III. Welcome & Introductions Karen Smith, Chairperson
- IV. Citizen's Time – None came forward to speak
- V. Review of Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes of April 2, 2024
Carly McDowell moved to approve, Justin Wilk-second the motion
- VI. Guest Speaker
Paul Gravely, CEO & Meghan Stubbs Director, Autism Center of Excellence
 - a. Review of Mission and Vision of organization and creating partnerships for comparative advantage as a non-profit organization creating competitive integrated employment opportunities.
 - b. Didlake provided an overview of the statistics of more than 1000 individuals with a disability employed through diverse job opportunities in more than 200 community business partners.
 - c. Meghan talked about the Autism Center of Excellence; providing training free of charge and increasing awareness and community engagement for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
 - d. Didlake has a Business Advisory Council, to include local businesses, to continue to increase opportunities in the community for people with disabilities.
 - e. Some of the resources and partners presented include the Autism Society of NVA, Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center, The ARC of NVA, The Department for Aging and Rehabilitation, VA Family Services Education Connection, PWCS, and Child Find.

- VII. Old Business Karen Smith, Chairperson
a. None
- VIII. New Business Karen Smith, Chairperson
a. Karen Smith brought to the group the inaccessibility and ADA non-compliance of the Dumfries Post Office and discussion was had about other Post Offices that are non-compliant. Board members were challenged to survey Post Offices and contact Congressional leaders and report out at December meeting.
- IX. Host Agency Updates Josh Lee, Acting Director
a. Josh Lee provided an update as follows:
 - Waitlists
 - ❖ A request was made by the Board to break down waitlists by District
 - Current position vacancies and advertisement status
 - Friends raised \$475 for PWC Gives
 - Veterans Direct Program will be bringing on additional veterans into the program
 - DARS Audit
 - NVAN Legislative Priorities Breakfast (handout)
- X. Member Time and Announcements
a. Teresa Belcher reported that she will be resigning from the Board, effective December 24, 2024.
b. Lillian Garland reported that voter registration is available at the Farmers Market; there is a crab feast on October 5, 2024 at VFW at 14631 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge and the cost is \$25.
c. Justin Wilk reported on the request for CIP expansion of special education facilities
d. Karen Smith reported on the Arc's 60th anniversary celebration and the dedication of a new park in the near future; the Arc's run, walk roll event in Lorton will be held on October 26, 2024 at the Occoquan Regional Park at 9:00 and is superhero themed with a trunk or treat at 11:00

Adjournment- 8:22 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 5 County Complex Ct. room 107 A/B