

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – DECEMBER 8, 2021
VIRTUAL

ATTENDANCE

Councilman Canek Aguirre	Rose Dawson	Amanda Hazelwood	Christina Sherlock
Ingrid Bynum	Laura Durham	J. Glenn Hopkins	
Dana Chambers	Kate Garvey	Kurt Huffman	
Catherine Clinger	Angela Green	Maile Organek	
Jessy Cuddy	Claudette Haynes	Dianara Saget	

Excused Absent

Julie Crawford
Jacinta Greene
Councilwoman Amy Jackson
Mike Mackey
Heather Thornton

Unexcused Absent

Annabelle O’Keefe
Justin Williams

Staff

Shawn Brown
Stacey Hardy-Chandler
Chelsea Eickert

WELCOME

DISCUSSION WITH ALEXANDRIA’S DELEGATION TO RICHMOND

The Chair introduced VA State Senator Adam Ebbin who talked about the upcoming Legislative session. Ebbin informed the Commission that there is a financial surplus and \$800 million in unallocated funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The distribution of these funds will depend on the most pressing needs. The Governor’s budget will include an increase in teachers’ pay and pre-k education. There are plans to establish paid family and medical leave by 2025. Ebbin’s priorities are: anti-racism training in sports; expanding coastal commission; making government work better for local Virginians; the utilization of electric vehicles; finishing the process of legalizing marijuana; and funding key education and redevelopment projects.

The Senator also addressed questions from the Commission pertaining to the Governor’s budget, redrawing of the maps, gun safety laws, and anti-bullying training. If the bills are agreed upon by both parties and house and senate, then it will be unlikely that the incoming Governor will make any amendments to Governor Northam’s two-year budget. Governor Youngkin is likely to support tax credits for childcare, given their popularity, which would benefit low-income families. While there has been a stalemate on gun safety laws, the Senate will not repeal any and gun-free zones in schools will remain. He would like to have officials, coaches, and players sign codes of conduct and have officials trained in bullying and harassment. Members are welcome to join the Senator’s mailing list at adamebbin.com to follow his regular updates and to see what happens at legislation.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Alexandria's Legislative Director, Sarah Taylor was given the floor to follow up on what's next with our City's proposed legislative package in which the top priorities are: continue to hold public meetings electronically; work across the commonwealth to address the issue of inland flooding; affordable housing; Dominion Reliability issue; and issues related to services provided to the cross-over youth population served by child welfare and juvenile justice systems. There was a public hearing on this package in which no comments were made. When asked if there are any opportunities for the Commission to support in the upcoming session, she said there are several efforts that the CYFCC can support this year: a childcare study that looks at how to increase enrollment; expanding the ability to hold electronic meetings outside of an emergency; crossover youth issues; and issues related to ensuring CSBs have the resources they need to better serve folks in crisis.

Sarah Taylor also presented on the basics of advocacy. The presentation included tips on how to build an advocacy plan, how to be an effective advocate, and steps for putting together an action plan. The legislative package will align with the City's new Strategic Plan. This 10-year plan will likely have a 10-year impact on legislation so it will be important how we communicate our goals, vision, and legislative priorities. She encouraged the Commission to be involved in that planning process.

The Legislative Director will attend more Commission meetings on a regular basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair opened up the floor for public comment and invited members of the public to make any comments. None were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from November.

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?

Commissioners were invited to share any efforts or events that the general community should be made aware of:

- CYFCC, SAPCA, AND ACAP are co-hosting a Youth Voices event that includes a youth panel on December 9.
- ARHA recently announced they are redeveloping Samuel Adams Center.
- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is hosting "The City of Alexandria Fair Housing Public Forum" on December 9 at 6:30.
- Libraries have free Covid testing kits which have been very popular. Please help make families aware of it. Libraries will have hot spots available for check out, helping individuals who have internet access challenges.

OLD BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET PROCESS

ACPS is in the final stages of approving Capital Improvement Projects budget. Learn more about the budget [here](#). The Commission needs to revisit the priorities that were set in October and review the ACPS budget to identify areas where more meat could be added and where the Commission can advocate for more support.

OLD BUSINESS – FALL EVENT REPORT OUT

The Youth Voices event will include a youth panel. Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.