

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2022
VIRTUAL

ATTENDANCE

Councilwoman Sarah Bagley	Rose Dawson	Katie Greenway	Mike Mackey
Ingrid Bynum	Laura Durham	Amanda Hazelwood	Christine Raino
Dana Chambers	Jay Falk	J. Glenn Hopkins	Dianara Saget
Catherine Clinger	Kate Garvey	Kurt Huffman	Christina Sherlock
Julie Crawford	Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins	Tammie Ignacio	Nelsa Tientore
Jessy Cuddy	Angela Green	Zach Lowe	J-Lynn Van Pelt

Excused Absent

Jacinta Greene

Unexcused Absent

Dr. Claudette Haynes

Staff

Shawn Brown Chelsea Eickert
Noraine Buttar Dr. Stacey Hardy-Chandler

Guests

Allen Lomax
Brianna Brown

WELCOME

The Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) Chair, Amanda Hazelwood welcomed everyone to the meeting. New member, Jay Falk, was welcomed and introduced to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair invited members of the public to make any comments. None were made.

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?

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

- ACPS School Board had its first Budget Session that included a robust Add/Delete conversation. and there was also an Equity Policy Audit Committee Meeting. Areas of focus include expansion of the College and Career Center at the Alexandria City High School so there can be a stronger focus on the graduation rate for Hispanic males; compensation for staff; meeting the social-emotional needs of youth; facilities projects; and enhancing social emotional learning. ESSR funding from the federal government has expedited a number of these projects.
- Every ACPS teacher has completed their training in “Ruler.”
- The City Budget was released on February 15. City Council held a retreat to talk about how they want to work together and with City staff, and what working relationships will look like. Equity and service were identified as two guiding principles for how the Council will orient themselves to the work and be responsive to the needs of the community in a timely way. Top priorities for the Council are: COVID, its effects, and investing in our City’s recovery; affordable housing; compensation of public safety, better supporting staff, and making the City of Alexandria a

preferred workplace; economic development; Out of School Time, including early care; and environmental justice.

- RAISE, Alexandria's Trauma Informed Community Network, provides "Understanding ACEs" trainings multiple times every month, free to the public. RAISE also received a small grant from the Family and Children Trust Fund in the amount of \$350. This money will go towards helping local organizations transform their spaces into trauma-informed environments.
- RPCA in the process of pre-registration for its Power On summer program. Registration will open to the public on the 23rd.

REVIEW AND APPROVE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The January Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

AWARENESS MONTH REPORT CARD

CYCP Coordinator shared the first edition of the CYCP Report Card. January's Report Card celebrates National Mentoring Month and features our community's efforts in ensuring that all children are connected to three or more caring adults. See the [Report Card](#) for more details.

OLD BUSINESS – REPORT OUT FROM GOAL GROUPS

Goal Groups were introduced and invited to share their updates from recent meetings.

- I. GOAL GROUP 1:** GGI responded to an emerging issue in early care by effectively using the decision tree model. Childcare providers don't have access to COVID testing, so GGI wrote a letter and learned more about this very complicated issue from talking with DCHS staff. DCHS and Neighborhood Health moved very quickly to distribute a high quantity of test kits monthly to childcare providers. The Goal Group also worked on coming up with key topics to focus on so they spent time looking at the CYCP. The topics they identified were: increasing access to mental health and wellness services; substance abuse; and youth violence. The Group invited Tricia Bassing, Chief of Child and Family Behavioral Health Services, to attend the GG meeting to have a discussion on the current state of supporting youth mental health.

There was a resolution to write a letter to acknowledge the quick response of the City on this issue. The motion carried and GG1 will write the letter.

- II. GOAL GROUP 2:** GGII welcomed several new members to the Group and their presence made for an impactful meeting. The group coalesced around priorities, which are: engaging students in social-emotional academic learning through restorative justice practices. The Group invited Gregory Baldwin and Kennetra Wood to attend the GG meeting to have a discussion to help better understand where ACPS practices are in implementing restorative practices.
- III. GOAL GROUP 3:** GGIII discussed amplifying student voices, supporting mental health, and restorative justice practices. Priorities for this Group include promoting youth empowerment and creating trauma informed spaces when facilitating positive youth development. The Group conducted a landscape analysis and identified nearly 20 key players working in this area, barriers to the success of the work, and best practices for amplifying youth voice. The Group hopes to meet with the Pastor at United Methodist Church and with ACT's Youth Philanthropy Group.

OLD BUSINESS – GOAL GROUP COLLABORATION

Considering the strong alignment among all three goal groups, there may be opportunities for these groups to support one another and collaborate as they learn more about mental health and restorative practices while centering youth voice and family engagement. Because the Commission expressed interest in a presentation on the mental health resources available for parents with children ages 0-18 and

how the current budget proposal addresses their mental health needs, a joint presentation from DCHS and ACPS Student Support Services was considered. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) also has a tactic under Mental Health Plan to increase mental health literacy. A group with strong representation of partners are putting together a packet of mental health information for Alexandrian residents. One option is that the Commission wait for a presentation from CHIP's Mental Health Work Group, and upon doing so, the CYFCC can help inform the community about how to recognize mental health symptoms and what to do. RAISE also compiled a plethora of mental health resources that can be found on the [City's website](#).

OLD BUSINESS – REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

The CYFCC Executive Committee is pursuing an internal mentoring program where veteran Commissioners are paired with new Commissioners and make themselves available to help orient new Commissioners to CYFCC and their role. The CYFCC will be hosting a new member orientation a half hour prior to the March 9th Commission meeting. The orientation will be recorded.

In April, Noraine will lead the Commission through a Youth-Adult Partnership training. Finally, the CYFCC need to fill three open seats to be filled by youth. It was recommended that the Commission look into changing the criteria in the Charter to include high-school age youth (as opposed to limiting membership to youth enrolled in high school).

NEW BUSINESS – CHAIR-ELECT PROCESS

Chair-elect Jesse Cuddy will be on parental leave beginning in February. Because of this, the CYFCC will elect the next the chair-elect sooner than usual. The election process includes an email that will be sent to the Commission tomorrow from Noraine. The email will include a survey link where the names of every current member will be listed. Members can nominate and self-nominate the chair-elect. All nominees will be asked if they are interested in serving, and those who accept will be given the opportunity to speak at the next Commission meeting. Voting will take place at the following meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN BUDGET

There are several opportunities for the Commission to engage in prior to the next Commission meeting, including work group meetings, research projects, and a public hearing on the budget. Because it's important for the Commission to have representation at these meetings and public hearings, the Chair created a document with talking points to help prepare Commissioners to advocate on behalf of the priorities of the Commission. The Chair is also putting together a list of volunteer opportunities for members to take a lead on that will help move the CYCP and Commission's priorities forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Commission can:
 - Consider creating a list of optional trainings over the summer so Commissioners are well equipped to understand issues
 - Agree on one to two trending hashtags to elevate key issues every month
- On the state level, the new Commissioner for Social Services has been named and they are “a rockstar” because of their focus on the Social Determinants of Health.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.