

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Catherine Clinger	Jacinta Greene	Zach Lowe
Julie Crawford	Katie Greenway	Mike Mackey
Rose Dawson	Claudette Haynes	Christine Raino
Laura Durham	Amanda Hazelwood	Dianara Saget
Jay Falk	Kurt Huffman	Christina Sherlock
Angela Green	Tammie Ignacio	Nelsa Tientore

**Excused Absent**

Councilwoman Sarah Bagley	Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins
Ingrid Bynum	J. Glenn Hopkins
Dana Chambers	J-Lynn Van Pelt
Jessy Cuddy	
Kate Garvey	

**Staff**

Shawn Brown  
Noraine Buttar  
Robin Crawley  
Chelsea Eickert  
Stacey-Hardy Chandler

**Guests**

Allen Lomax  
Percy White  
Jenny Rivera  
Zahra Rahimi

**WELCOME**

The Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) Chair, Amanda Hazelwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The Chair invited members of the public to make any comments.

**WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?**

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

- C-SPAN's networks will announce their national 2022 StudentCam Documentary Competition winners, including schools located in Alexandria, later this month.
- The Teens Work! Summer Youth Work Experience 2022 Flyer is available and youth interested in employment over the summer are welcome to apply between March 14-18.
- There was a joint City Council and ACPS School Board meeting to discuss the budget and next steps. Significant investments in SEAL and addressing mental health needs are being made with

ESSR Funds. This aligns with the CYFCC budget letter that advocated for more funding for SEAL programs.

- The Regional Detention Center located in Alexandria just successfully underwent a certification process from the Department of Juvenile Justice. Perhaps the Commission would like to receive a presentation from the school's ED and Principal.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

The February Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

## **AWARENESS MONTH REPORT CARD**

CYCP Coordinator, Chelsea Eickert, walked the Commission through [February's CYCP Report Card](#) which celebrates *Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month* and *Healthy Relationships Month*. The Commission is seeking support to maintain the CYFCC's Facebook page; that way Commissioners can share the monthly Report Card and other posts with their networks.

## **OLD BUSINESS – REPORT OUT FROM GOAL GROUPS**

**GOAL GROUP I:** Sharon Minter, Chief of Children Services Act (CSA) from the Center for Children and Families (CCF), attended the meeting as a guest speaker to talk about a sub-committee that she will soon facilitate. This sub-committee is made up of the CSA, the Child and Family Behavioral Health Services (also from CCF), ACPS, and private providers to identify currently available mental health services, how to access those services, and what additional behavioral health services are needed. The goal is to strengthen the amount of support available for Tier I and Tier II groups and interventions for students and families. The GG expressed interest in learning more about that work and how the CYFCC can help once they begin implementation.

Robin Crawley, Chief of Early Childhood within the Center for Children and Families, delivered an update on where the City is in offering child care providers with COVID-19 test kits for their staff. Robin Crawley's team received 1,600 kits that day and are currently working with the Health Department on a distribution plan. Originally 3,000 test kits had been requested but the supply at Neighborhood Health was discontinued. There may be more on the way.

The preliminary plan is to give each provider that accepts children who are on subsidy a small supply of tests. If there is an outbreak, the provider can go to the Health Department, and they will determine how many additional kits are needed; kits will be given on a case by case basis. That will help avoid stockpiling of kits and support CC programs to remain open and not close every time a child has an exposure happens or tests positive. Info will go out to providers to pick up their initial distribution.

**GOAL GROUP II:** Gregory Baldwin, Kennetra Wood, and Julie Crawford from ACPS, spoke to the Group about how restorative practices are being implemented across the schools. This is the first year of implementation in the elementary schools, and all but two schools across the district have at least one restorative practice liaison. The GG learned about the implementation status, where they hope to go, goals and targets, and developing a way to collect data on the program. Questions from the GG included the frequency and consistency of the program's implementation and making the practices more uniform; not all the schools in ACPS are at the same stage but are moving in the same direction towards the "exploration" stage. Within the next few years, the program will be fully implemented across the district.

**GOAL GROUP III:** The Goal Group has been focused on elevating youth voice and best practices in doing so. The Group conducted a literature review on youth voice and found a validated tool for youth-adult partnerships and another for youth and young adult voice in City Council. City agencies can use these tools to evaluate how youth voice and leadership is incorporated in decision making.

Engaging youth in the Commission has been a challenge so there was discussion around ways of incentivizing youth participation. Another idea shared was partnering with Civics teachers to develop a pipeline of youth from the classroom to the Commission. The GG also learned more about ACT for Alexandria Youth Philanthropy Council. ACT has a lot of resources and information pertaining to engaging youth in councils. Other opportunities that were discussed were mentoring, giving youth a standing role on the Commission, and collaborating with other entities already working with youth. Next steps include a research project of identifying where youth can serve on boards, commissions, and other leadership structures as well as opportunities for youth voice.

Finally, the next “Youth Speak Up” event will take place in the spring and focus on youth mental health. Planning for the event is currently underway.

#### **OLD BUSINESS – GOAL GROUP COLLABORATION**

Commissioners were invited to ask other Goal Groups questions and identify any areas of overlap. For example, mental health touches Goal Groups I and III, and restorative practices touches Goal Groups II and III.

#### **OLD BUSINESS – REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES**

The Chair announced the names of the newest youth members who will soon join the Commission. Eleven youth applied to serve on the Commission because of the robust outreach done in the community. The Chair also reminded everyone of the intra-mentoring that will be initiated soon among Commissioners.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – BUDGET**

City Manager presented the City’s Budget to City Council in February. The Commission will review the City’s Budget and the Add/Delete Budget from ACPS and make recommendations. To empower Commissioners to advocate for priorities, a talking points document was created. Commissioners are needed to sit in during budget work group meetings to learn more about what is included in these budgets.

Catherine Clinger attend the joint City Council and ACPS School Board meeting and shared her takeaways. There were several strategic areas, including SEAL, trauma-informed supports, and targeting resources towards Hispanic males, that aligned with the Commission’s priorities. There is great need for Commissioners to sit in on future budget meetings and engage in

The Chair brought an emerging issue to the CYFCC. City staff are not being paid a competitive market-rate wage so some positions that provide services to children and youth, particularly within the Department of Recreation, are difficult to fill. The Commission considered a recommendation for staff pay increases, specifically among Recreation staff and substitute teachers. The ACPS Superintendent proposed in the ACPS Budget pay increases across all staff positions, including substitute pay, long-term substitute pay, and bus driver pay.

There was also a recommendation to survey substitutes to better understand the issues that they face. There was a motion to advocate raising compensation among City Recreation staff and ACPS substitute teachers to be more competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. The motion carried. The recommendation will be added to the talking points document.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE**

Chelsea Eickert, CYCP Coordinator, provided an update on the progress of the CYCP.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – CHAIR-ELECT PROCESS**

Catherine Clinger was elected Chair-Elect!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.