

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – JANUARY 12, 2022
VIRTUAL

ATTENDANCE

Councilwoman Sarah Bagley	Laura Durham	Amanda Hazelwood	Dianara Saget
Ingrid Bynum	Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins	Kurt Huffman	Christine Sherlock
Catherine Clinger	Angela Green	Tammie Ignacio	Nelsa Tiemtore
Julie Crawford	Jacinta Greene	Zach Lowe	J-Lynn Van Pelt
Jessy Cuddy	Katie Greenway	Mike Mackey	
Rose Dawson	Dr. Claudette Haynes	Christine Raino	

Excused Absent

Kate Garvey
J. Glenn Hopkins

Staff

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

Guests:

Briana Brown
Allen Lomax

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. 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:

- Act for Alexandria had a meeting on Saturday to discuss the convening of youth as grant makers to address needs of community.
- New ACPS Board Members were welcomed.
- Presentations were made to the ACPS Board on new CDC Guidelines.
- January is National Mentoring Month. David Ulloa is the AMP Coordinator. Commissioners were encouraged to share information with their networks on upcoming mentor recruitment events to increase mentors in the City.
- DCHS is moving to a new facility. Everyone was invited to attend a meeting on January 13th to weigh in on what the building will look like.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The December Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

INTRODUCTION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNCIL ON SCHOOL BOARD, NEW MEMBERS

The new representatives from ACPS School Board members, City Council members, and new Commission members were invited to introduce themselves to the Commission. The Commission had the pleasure of meeting Tammy Ignacio and Jacinta Greene from the ACPS School Board, Sarah Bagley and Alyia Gaskins from City Council, and community members Nelsa Tiemtore, J-Lynn Van Pelt, Katie Greenway, Zach Lowe, and Christine Raino.

OLD BUSINESS – ALEXANDRIA YOUTH SPEAK UP – EVENT REPORT OUT

Jessy Cuddy encouraged the CYFCC to co-sponsor more events like this in the future, especially those which hand the mic over to youth and lift their voices, because it was such a positive experience. Youth shared their perspectives on what worked to engage youth throughout the pandemic. Over 40 community members were in attendance. A highlight from the event was asking the adults in attendance to share what they heard from the Youth Panel.

OLD BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET

The Commission is charged with providing advice to decision makers on key issues, and one way that it does that is by writing letters to City Council and the School Board that include recommendations for their respective budgets. This year the letters were developed, in part, by each Goal Group contributing their priorities based on what's in the Children and Youth Community Plan. The Chair gave everyone time to review the letter to the School Board and provide their feedback. The Commission agreed that the letter was ready to be delivered to the School Board.

OLD BUSINESS – REPORT OUT FROM GOAL GROUPS

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

- I. GOAL GROUP 1:** The conversation involved what they wanted to include in the budget letter. The Group enjoyed the conversation and felt comfortable asking questions and sharing what they didn't know. The Group plans on rotating leadership responsibilities, but is unsure how often they will meet or what would warrant a meeting. Priorities include assessing the unmet mental and behavioral health needs of youth, the current state of safety and violence interruptions, and comprehensive sex education.
- II. GOAL GROUP 2:** This Group needs people with enthusiasm and made a soft recruitment pitch to the Commission. The Group is interested in learning more about the findings from the 2021 Equity for All Survey. Group 2 would also like to learn more about how student- and family-voice is being incorporated into decisions, and what practices are in place to foster supportive learning environments and getting students ready for their transition to post-secondary life.
- III. GOAL GROUP 3:** This Group also rotates leadership responsibilities and is focused on creating the conditions for mental health and lifting up youth voice. They would like to design a listening process to receive input from youth. They will also invite the City Council and School Board to report back to the CYFCC on recommendations included in budget letters that have been advocated for.

NEW BUSINESS – CYCP COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

CYCP Coordinator, Chelsea Eickert provided a communications update on the CYCP. See the slide deck for more details. Future meetings will include an overview of each month's "CYCP Report Card."

NEW BUSINESS – STRATEGY CHECK-IN

The Commission's Chair shared her monthly roadmap for the Commission, which largely revolves around the City's budget season and entry points for advocacy. Sarah Taylor, the City's Legislative Director, is working on a plan for how the CYFCC can participate in the Legislative session virtually and talk directly to legislators about initiatives in the City that align with the CYCP. The Chair then turned the CYFCC's attention to the Goal Groups and a tool they can use to facilitate action planning to advance

their priorities. The worksheet will be emailed to all Commissioners in time for their upcoming Goal Group meetings.

Goal Group 2 needs to find a time to meet, Goal Group 1 meets on the third Tuesdays at 6PM and Goal Group 3 meets on the third Wednesdays at 6PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- City Council passed an updated Council schedule that includes all of the Budget Work Sessions
- The next ACPS School Board Budget Work Session is January 13. The public is strongly encouraged to attend and participate.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.