

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING NOTES – MAY 11, 2022**  
**CHARLES HOUSTON RECREATION CENTER, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilwoman Sarah Bagley	Jay Falk	J. Glenn Hopkins (Virtual)	Jenny Rivera
Dana Chambers	Kate Garvey	Kurt Huffman	Nelsa Tiemtore
Catherine Clinger	Angela Green (Virtual)	Zach Lowe	
Julie Crawford	Katie Greenway (Virtual)	Mike Mackey (Virtual)	
Jessy Cuddy	Kate Harbor	Zahra Rahimi	
Laura Durham	Amanda Hazelwood	Christine Raino	

**Excused Absent**

Ingrid Bynum	Dianara Saget
Rose Dawson	Christina Sherlock
Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins	J-Lynn Vanpelt
Jacinta Greene	
Tammie Ignacio	

**Unexcused Absent**

Claudette Haynes

**Staff**

Shawn Brown	Stacey Hardy-Chandler
Noraine Buttar	Chelsea Eickert

**Guest:** 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.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE APRIL MEETING MINUTES**

The April Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

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

**GOAL GROUP I:**

Tricia Bassing, Chief of Child and Family Behavioral Health Services was a guest speaker at the Goal Group I meeting. She shared her knowledge of what's being done to increase access to mental health resources and services. The presentation she delivered was filled with an array of information on the services provided to children, youth, and families. DCHS is seeing the highest demand ever while it experiences challenges with being fully staffed. There are currently 41 families on an outpatient waitlist with half of the families being primarily Spanish speaking.

**GOAL GROUP II:**

Goal Group II had a productive meeting which focused on the implementation status of Restorative Justice and SEAL across ACPS. Implementation is really complex at the institutional level and at the

program level. The Goal Group also proposed that the CYFCC organize Youth Advocacy Conferences, which would serve as an accountability mechanism to elevate youth voices. The CYFCC could organize two of these Conferences a year; the first would outline expectations and what is needed, and the second would hold the Commission accountable on their commitments. ACPS would be willing to partner, as the ACPS Strategic Plan includes youth empowerment and youth voice.

### **GOAL GROUP III:**

Goal Group III reported on their efforts to organize another virtual Youth Speak Up event. This event targets the mental health needs of middle schoolers, families, and mental health practitioners and would incorporate the Developmental Assets (specifically, *Positive Family Communication*). Given that this event would take place virtually, it has been challenging to figure out how to incorporate different languages. The Goal Group asked for ideas on how to be more language inclusive. Fortunately, the ACPS Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center has an expert in outreach, so Kurt Huffman offered to connect the Chair to see if adjustments can be made.

### **NEW BUSINESS – Y-VOC ASSESSMENT**

The CYFCC will send out a survey to all Commissioners between now and the retreat called the Assessment of Youth/Young Adult Voice on Committees and Councils (Y-VOC). The Y-VOC is intended to measure how well the Commission incorporates youth voice. There are a number of Commissions in the City that don't have youth seats. Should the CYFCC become skilled at youth engagement, it could support other Commissions in creating youth seats and engaging youth.

It was also noted how challenging it currently is for youth to navigate the application process to join the CYFCC. The Commission would like to make the process more accessible and equitable.

### **NEW BUSINESS – RETREAT PREPARATION**

To prepare the CYFCC for making FY23 decisions during the retreat on June 8, the Commission discussed FY22 priorities, activities, successes, lessons learned, and opportunities for improvement. The Commissioners divided up into their respective Goal Groups for this portion of the meeting.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

On May 4, 2022, the Alexandria City Council unanimously adopted a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 General Fund Operating Budget of \$839.2 million. Council Member Sarah Bagley briefed the Commission on the areas that impact the work of the Commission. The budget allocated another \$400,000 from ARPA funding to Out-of-School-Time Programs (OSTP) and \$400K went into an Early Childhood contingency. The adopted budget also includes increasing employee compensation, maintaining the investments into staffing for the Teen Wellness Center and four additional mental health positions in DCHS, expanding the DCHS Language Access into other City departments, and a Pilot Universal Basic Income program.

May 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day an individual can apply for rent relief.

### **WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW? AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- There is a formula shortage that may become a big crisis. The DCHS Director has been talking with WIC and will be as involved as possible in terms of information sharing and working with grocery stores.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.