

MEETING MINUTES

Alexandria Community Services Board Meeting

4850 Mark Center Dr. Alexandria, VA

Conference Room #1301

April 3, 2025 – 6:30 pm

Members Present: Mary Lyman, Chair
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Michele Walz
Ian Ring
Luisa Lancetti
Erica Hamilton
Mouaad Jaani

Members Absent: Krista Oberlander (Excused)
Lemuel Houston, Jr. (Excused)
Brian Marvin (Excused)
Marjorie L. Greenberg (Unexcused)

Staff: Phillip Caldwell, Center Director for Adult Services, DCHS
Chontelai Patterson-Mendie, Admin Operations Officer
Celestine Chew, Admin Support Supervisor

Ms. Lyman called the Board Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

II. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of March 6, 2025, Board Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, seconded by Mr. Ian Ring, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 6, 2025, Board meeting.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- On behalf of Raphael Obenwa, Mr. Phillip Caldwell stated that the budget is on point at this time. There are no concerns with projections of expenditures
- The contract services numbers reflect normal inflation.
- The Alexandria Community Shelter was contracted out to Carpenter's shelter to save the City money.
- The CSB is working to make sure police diversions can be made to the new detox center that Alexandria shares with Arlington for people who may have consumed too many alcohol beverages. Most of these are visitors.
- There will be a 1% increase in staff pay
- The city surplus is sold on gov.com

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS /CONCERNS

- Mr. Caldwell informed the Board that due to the Federal spending cuts, funding for Covid related testing and supplies stopped as of March 24. It was supposed to end in September.
- A couple of grants for our CSB programs were impacted, including funding for a position in prevention. T.R.A.I.L.S and Psychosis and funds to soundproof DCHS offices.
- The Medicaid DD waiver slots are receiving a cut. Each slot needs a case manager. This could cause a problem, because staff won't be hired or trained until they are already in need.
- 3 Board members will be attending the VACSB conference in Norfolk.
- If the Feds start cutting grants it will be a massive blow, because the state is matching the federal grants. So, if the feds cut grants by 20% the CSB would likely lose 40%
- Due to some state law changes we may be giving back money to Virginia. This may affect next year's budget. It has to do with how much the state contributes towards staff salary increases.
- Some counties are not getting reimbursed as they were supposed to for facility constructions, for medical centers/detox centers that keep people out of hospitals. This has happened in Loudon
- CSB is prepared for upticks in need of services (concerning Fed layoffs), but they do expect more people to be missing appointments due to recent negative association with public services in the immigrant community

Adjournment

Having accomplished all the items on the published agenda and on a motion by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, seconded by Ms. Michele Walz, Ms. Lyman adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Celestine Chew