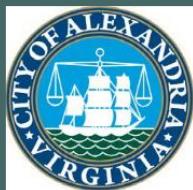




2015-2016 Annual Report

ALEXANDRIA CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE
COMMISSION



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ALEXANDRIA CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION

Tammy Mann, Chair
Eric Williams, Chair-Elect
Kate Garvey, Past Chair-Elect
Chanece Bigelow
Gisselle Brown

Councilman John Chapman
William Chesley
Rose Dawson
J. Glenn Hopkins
Gwendolyn Lewis
Mike Mackey
Gerald Mann
Gwen Mullen
Jeffrey Murphy
Brian Orrenmaa
Sonia Price
Joyce Rawlings
Anthony R. Smith
Carlos Suber
Kendallee Walker

Background

The Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) was established by city ordinance on June 25, 2011 and held its first meeting on February 8, 2012. The full Commission meets from September through June on the second Wednesday of the month at seven p.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room in City Hall.

Tammy Mann, PhD, served as the first Chair from March 2012 through June 2013. Timothy Peterson served as Chair for 2013-2014. For 2014-2015, Sean McNearney served as Chair. Tammy Mann was elected for the second time serving as Chair. Eric Williams served as the Chair.

For Fiscal Year 2016, the CYFCC Executive Committee included the Chair, the Chair-Elect and the following chairs of the five working committees:

- Advocacy – J. Glenn Hopkins
- Budget and Finance – Tammy Mann
- Outreach and Membership – Rose Dawson, Brian Orrenmaa
- Research Data – Kendallee Walker
- Implementation and Monitoring – Gwendolyn Lewis, Gwen Mullen

The Advocacy Committee

The Research/Data and the Implementation/Monitoring Committees which worked together to oversee the development of the CYMP Implementation Plan during FY 2015, resumed working as separate committee in FY 16. .

Summary of Activities for the Past Year

- Assembled 10 times as a full commission
- Held 10 Executive Committee meetings
- Convened a retreat on January 30, 2015 with Drs. Preston and Kellene Bruce as contracted facilitators.
- Received updates on the Standards of Learning for Alexandria, the new Youth Career Academy, the FY 16 Budget Process, the ACPS Long-Range Facilities plan, and a site visit to Alleghany County to learn about their shared data measurement system.

The Children & Youth Master Plan

The Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission oversaw the development of the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) for Alexandria. The Plan articulates a vision for the well-being of children and youth in the community and serves as the basis for the coordination, alignment and delivery of effective services for children, youth and their families by the City, Alexandria City Public Schools, and nonprofit and community organizations. The Children and Youth Master Plan was unanimously approved by City Council and the School Board respectively in June of 2014.

OUR COLLECTIVE VISION: *All of Alexandria's Children Succeed Today and Tomorrow*

OUR GOALS:

- ***Every child will be physically safe and healthy.***
- ***Every child will be academically successful and career-ready.***
- ***Every child will be socially connected, emotionally secure and culturally competent.***
- ***Every family will be equipped and empowered to support the well-being of their children effectively.***
- ***Alexandria's systems and institutions will be responsive, coordinated, efficient and effective in service to children and families.***

Each respective goal has three to five strategies and a number of recommended action steps.

In FY 15 significant work was done to fully engage the non-profit community, school personnel and staff from City agencies in the development of the CYMP Implementation Plan. One hundred and forty people attended two work sessions held in August and April. The outcomes were: 1) Prioritization of initial action steps in the Plan; 2) Commitment of agencies to contribute to implementation of specific action steps; and 3) Identification of areas agencies could work together in pursuit of funding opportunities.

The City Schools Staff Group (CSSG), which has primary responsibility for the Plan's execution, worked collaboratively on the development of the initial Implementation Plan and identified Goal Group leaders.

The Children, Youth and Family Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) held a retreat to prioritize elements of the Plan and clarify roles of the commissioners with respect to the Plan. The CYFCC successfully advocated with Council for funding to provide backbone support for implementation of the CYMP. The Commission identified aspects of the Plan that required the leadership of commissioners, particularly in the areas of advocacy and community engagement.

The Early Care and Education Work Group, with significant support from two private foundations (Bruhn-Morris Foundation and ACT for Alexandria), secured a consultant group to support the development of an Early Care and Education strategic plan to address system alignment, access, comprehensive supports, and quality. A team representing the Early Care and Education Work Group went to Allegheny County to learn about their shared data management system.

The Commission supported and endorsed other activities related to the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan. These include:

- Establishment of an Out of School Time Work Group, which is gathering data to inform next steps.
- Alignment of the Alexandria Fund for Human Services priorities with the goals of the Children and Youth Master Plan.
- Planning and convening a three-day Youth Leadership Institute to expand youth engagement by the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and the Gang Prevention Task Force.
- Formation of an Alexandria Youth Move chapter for youth who have been involved in the foster care, behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems.
- Pursuit of several grant opportunities, including an ongoing state grant to support youth in transition 16-24 with emerging psychosis (awarded), a federal Performance Partnership Pilot Grant to address older, disengaged youth (not successful), another federal teen pregnancy prevention grant (pending), 21st Century grants through Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), and others.
- Staff presentations on Early Care and Education and Out of School Time to two joint City Council/School Board Work Sessions and monthly reports to the City Council/School Board Subcommittee on the progress of the CYMP.

The Children and Youth Master Plan is recognized and frequently referenced as a roadmap for the future of Alexandria's system of support for children and families.



Commissioner Wins Living Legend Award

Commissioner and advocate Joyce Rawlings won a Living Legend of Alexandria Award for her decades of work connecting children and their families with the school system and involvement in a variety of programs to ensure that youth have a bright future.

Commission Staff Support

Deborah Warren, Department of Community & Human Services

Ron Frazier, Department of Community & Human Services

Carol Farrell, Department of Community and Human Services

Jacqueline Coachman, Department of Community and Human Services

Shanna Samson, Alexandria City Public Schools

Barbara Farrington, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities