

Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission
Annual Report
July 2022 – June 2023

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) includes providing advice, advocacy, and pertinent information to Alexandria City staff, City Council, School Board, and other relevant entities in order to influence policy and decisions that result in better outcomes for children, youth, and families in Alexandria. Within these guidelines, the CYFCC membership completed the following activities during its 2022/23 year:

CYFCC Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Membership remained steady throughout the year and we filled all vacancies.
- This year, the CYFCC again partnered with Alexandria Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) and the Substance Abuse and Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) to host a Youth Speak Up event. This year's event focused on the mental health of Alexandria's middle school population.

CYFCC Member Activities

- Held Commission retreat in June 2023.
- Held a Mental Health Roundtable event to inform Commissioners of the state of mental health among Alexandria's youth.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Submitted letters with detailed budget recommendations to both the Alexandria School Board and the Alexandria City Council.
- Submitted letter and recommendations to the Alexandria School Board in support of the inclusion of family and student voice in the Superintendent selection process.
- Submitted letter to the Virginia Department of Education in opposition to the Governor's model policy affecting transgender youth.
- Testified before the Alexandria School Board and the City Council for improved youth access to mental health services.
- Completed a second Youth Voice survey that was discussed at the June retreat and will result in recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Compiled a landscape survey of leadership opportunities for youth in Alexandria.

Goals for 2023-2024

- As a result of the Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission's (CYFCC) work advancing the Children and Youth Community Plan (CYCP) in 2023–2024,

Goal 1: Organizations serving Alexandria's children and youth will report on their progress in serving those populations or in implementing the Children and Youth Community Plan (CYCP), thereby identifying accomplishments, roadblocks, and how the CYFCC can assist them in achieving their objectives, and the CYFCC will take appropriate action in response to those requests.

Goal 2: Underserved populations of Alexandria's children and youth will have increased access to and awareness of mental health services.

Goal 3: ACPS will continue to provide appropriate, effective SEAL and restorative justice resources and programming.

Goal 4: Every Alexandria Commission will have youth representation, adhere to CYFCC-created checklist, and complete the Y-VOC survey at the end of the year.

Goal 5: Onboarding and recruitment of Alexandria youth Commissioners will be enhanced, centralized, and conducted more quickly.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the May meeting: Catherine Clinger will serve as Chair, Zahra Rahimi and Alex Roberts as joint Chairs-Elect.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed:
 - Marwa Naqshbandi – appointed 5.9.23
 - Marwa Sarwari - appointed 5.9.23
 - Julie Murphy - appointed 9.13.22
 - Amanda Ruff - appointed 10.11.22
 - Alex Roberts - appointed 12.13.22
 - Sara Wascowicz - appointed 1.10.23
 - Meredith Forbes - appointed 4.11.23
 - Nicole Davi - appointed 4.11.23
 - Marcia Jackson - appointed 4.11.23
 - Dana Chambers - resigned
 - Julie Crawford - resigned
 - Kate Harbor - resigned
 - J. Glenn Hopkins - reached term limit
 - Nelsa Tiemtore - resigned
 - Amanda Hazelwood - resigned
 - Jenny Rivera - expired term

- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Councilwoman Sarah Bagley
 - Ingrid Bynum
 - Dana Chambers
 - Catherine Clinger
 - Julie Crawford
 - Jessica Cuddy
 - Nicole Davi
 - Rose Dawson
 - Laura Durham
 - Meredith Forbes
 - Jay Falk
 - Kate Garvey
 - Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins
 - Angela Green
 - Jacinta Greene
 - Katie Greenway
 - Kate Harbor
 - Amanda Hazelwood
 - J. Glenn Hopkins
 - Kurt Huffman
 - Tammie Ignacio
 - Marcia Jackson
 - Mike Mackey
 - Julie Murphy
 - Marwa Naqshbandi
 - Zahra Rahimi
 - Christine Raino
 - Christina Sherlock
 - Nelsa Tiemtore
 - J-Lynn Van-Pelt
 - Alex Roberts
 - Amanda Ruff
 - Marwa Sarwari
 - Sara Wascowicz
- Noraine Buttar and the Department of Community and Human Services acted as the staff liaison to CYFCC during the course of the 2022/2023 year.

Attachments

1. [Link to CYCP Report Cards](#)

2. Y-VOC Assessment results
3. Budget letter to City Council
4. Budget letter to School Board