

**Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

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 Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

1. Significantly increased advocacy efforts this year through the following:
 - State Level: Advocated on statewide issues affecting children and youth by
 - researching issues of critical importance to children and youth throughout Virginia
 - inviting Alexandria’s Legislative Director Sarah Taylor to speak to our Commission
 - submitting recommendations for the City of Alexandria’s legislative package (sent to our Commonwealth representatives)
 - corresponding with Commonwealth representatives on budget issues
 - City Council level: Met in person with City Council members, including Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilmembers Sarah Bagley, John Chapman, Alyia Gaskins, and Kirk McPike
 - ACPS level: Met in person with School Board members, including Chair Michelle Rief, Megan Alderton, Jacinta Greene, Ashley Simpson Baird, and Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
 - Appeared at multiple School Board meetings and City Council meetings (at least seven members testifying) to advocate for the following legislative priorities, many of which were included in the final FY City budget:
 - Pay increase for ACPS teachers and staff
 - Additional funding for mental health resources
 - Continued funding of the Youth Ambassadors program
 - Expansion of out of school time opportunities through adoption of Athletic Director James Parker’s proposal for middle school sports
 - Initiated funding included in the FY25 City Budget (for stipends for youth members of boards and commissions)
 - Reached out to other groups to coordinate advocacy efforts (the Alexandria City Community for Public Education) and compare resources, projects and strategies (the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families)

2. Established a coordinated system and calendar to oversee the activities and accomplishments of groups responsible for implementing the Children and Youth Community Plan

- Heard from the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy, the Gang Prevention Task Force, ACPS, Casa Chirilagua, Tenants and Workers Union, the ACT Youth Support Network, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, Kids' First Years and the Alexandria Library System
- Incorporated information gleaned from these presentations into our advocacy efforts
- Delegated responsibility to our subcommittees (Goal Groups) to take the lead on coordinating these presentations and communicating with stakeholders

3. Revived the Champions of Children Awards Ceremony (last held prior to the pandemic) which honors individuals who have made a significant positive impact on Alexandria's children and youth

Goals for 2024-2025

- 1) The Commission will make better use of the data that is collected and provided to us: specifically, CYFCC will engage with the strengths and shortcomings that are highlighted in the 2023 Annual Report as well as the periodic Progress Reports provided by the Children and Youth Community Plan Coordinator
- 2) The Commission will attend to racial and ethnic disparities by centering on core values related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; by targeting the most troubling 'gaps' in access, resources, and outcomes across racial and ethnic groups; and by engaging a more diverse membership on the Commission itself.
- 3) The Commission will provide to the City Council a clear set of prioritized recommendations, including budget implications, based on our work as outlined above.
- 4) The Commission will actively partner with the Alexandria Health Department and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to support the Community Health Assessment process and subsequent Community Health Improvement Plan and to assist the Department of Community and Human Services' efforts to create the next Five-Year Children and Youth Community Plan for 2025-2030.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the May meeting: Dan Edwards will serve as Chair and Trinady Maddock as Chair-Elect.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed

- Teliyah Hillary – appointed 3.12.24
 - Nicole Davi – appointed 4.11.23
 - Meredith Forbes – appointed 4.11.23
 - Dan Edwards – appointed 9.12.23
 - Ursula Rocha – appointed 10.10.23
 - Trinady Maddock – appointed 12.12.23
 - Carrie Phillips – appointed 2.13.24
 - Tim Beaty – 4.12.24
 - Christina Sherlock - resigned
 - Marwa Naqshbandi – resigned
 - Marwa Sarwari – resigned
 - Zahra Rahimi – resigned
 - Ingrid Bynum – resigned
 - Sara Wascowicz - resigned
-
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Councilwoman Sarah Bagley
 - Amanda Ruff
 - Angela Green
 - Carrie Phillips
 - Catherine Clinger
 - Christina Sherlock
 - Christine Raino
 - Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins
 - Dan Edwards
 - Ingrid Bynum
 - Jacinta Greene
 - Jlynn Vanpelt
 - Julie Murphy
 - Kate Garvey
 - Katie Greenway
 - Laura Durham
 - Marcia Jackson
 - Marwa Naqshbandi
 - Meredith Forbes
 - Mike Mackey
 - Nicole Davi
 - Rose Dawson
 - Sara Wascowicz
 - Teliyah Hillary
 - Tim Beaty
 - Trinady Maddock

- Ursula Rocha
- Noraine Buttar and the Department of Community and Human Services acted as the staff liaison to CYFCC during the course of the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. [Link to CYCP Report Cards](#)
2. Letter to Council re Compensation for Youth Representatives