Highlight: The CYFCC created a "Snapshot" to orient new members and guide their work (attached).

Coordinator's Orientation to the Children and Youth Master Plan

What happened?
- The new Children and Youth Master Plan Coordinator spent the first several months learning about the Plan, community needs, and resources.
- The Coordinator met with Goal Group Leaders and other stakeholder groups to deepen her understanding of:
    - the CYMP and where each goal group is at;
    - people's roles and responsibilities as members or leaders of a Goal Group;
    - what's been going well with implementation, what's been challenging, missing, or could be different, and thoughts of next steps moving forward.

What difference does this make?
- With someone responsible for providing backbone support to move the Plan's work forward, there will be stronger infrastructure to support:
    - accountability
    - communications
    - the implementation management and evaluation of the CYMP
    - capacity building
    - aligning activities
    - community engagement
    - mobilizing resources
    - data collection and analysis
- After orienting herself to the Plan and its process so far, the Coordinator developed recommendations for ways to strengthen the plan's implementation process.

Restructured the Plan and Workgroups

What happened?
- The CYMP's implementation process and work groups were restructured, concentrating the community's focus pressing needs children and youth face today.
- Now that priority areas have been identified through a data-informed process, efforts in these areas are being identified and work groups are beginning to organize.

What difference does this make?
- This reorganization seemed to rejuvenate energy around the Plan and made the work of implementing the Plan more manageable.
- This structure gives work group members clear guidelines for how to proceed with implementation.
- Organizing work groups around a particular issue can:
    - bring about more effective and efficient delivery of programs and services,
    - eliminate any unnecessary duplication of efforts, and
    - maximize our work in improving outcomes among Alexandria's children and youth.

Moved Groups Toward Action

What Happened?
- Two more work groups (Healthy Behaviors and Youth Empowerment) around key CYMP Initiatives were organized
- Conducted outreach to the stakeholders whose work aligns with CYMP initiatives and gauged their level of interest and capacity to form or join a work group
- CYMP Roles and Responsibilities were defined
- The Youth Services Coordinating Council - a forum of youth-service providers - agreed to serve as a CYMP coordinating body that connects all of the initiatives and links community efforts to the progress of the CYMP.

- The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership agreed upon the four developmental assets that they will intentionally build together (alignment)

What difference does this make?

- Our roles, responsibilities, and specific ways that we can support one another were defined and clarified, next steps and priorities were identified; and each group knows what to measure.
- Stronger coordination and alignment among youth-service providers.
- Nonprofit involvement in the CYMP implementation process.

Strengthened Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

What happened?

- The Implementation Monitoring Committee designed a monitoring template and procedures for collecting progress reports from work groups.
- Eventually, each work group will have SMART Objectives, complete with process and outcome indicators for the Committee to monitor.

What difference does this make?

- Evaluation results will be used to narrow the focus of the agenda, prioritize, plan, and course correct.
- The Commission will be able to determine if the goals and objectives are being achieved or not and if personnel have adequate resources to achieve them.
- Barriers to progress will be identified and brought to the City-School Staff Group for them to consider.

Activating Goal Five: Alexandria's systems and institutions are responsive, coordinated, efficient, and effective in their service to children and families

What's happening:

- The Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) Committees are reviewing the action steps that they are responsible for, most of which fall under Goal Five
  - They are to determine what's been done, what needs to be done, and create a work plan around what's feasible.

What difference does this make?

- Coordination, collaboration, and accountability will be the key to the success of the Plan. With input from the Committees, we'll be able to determine what progress has been made and what still needs to be done.
- Each Committee will have a work plan to guide their work next year
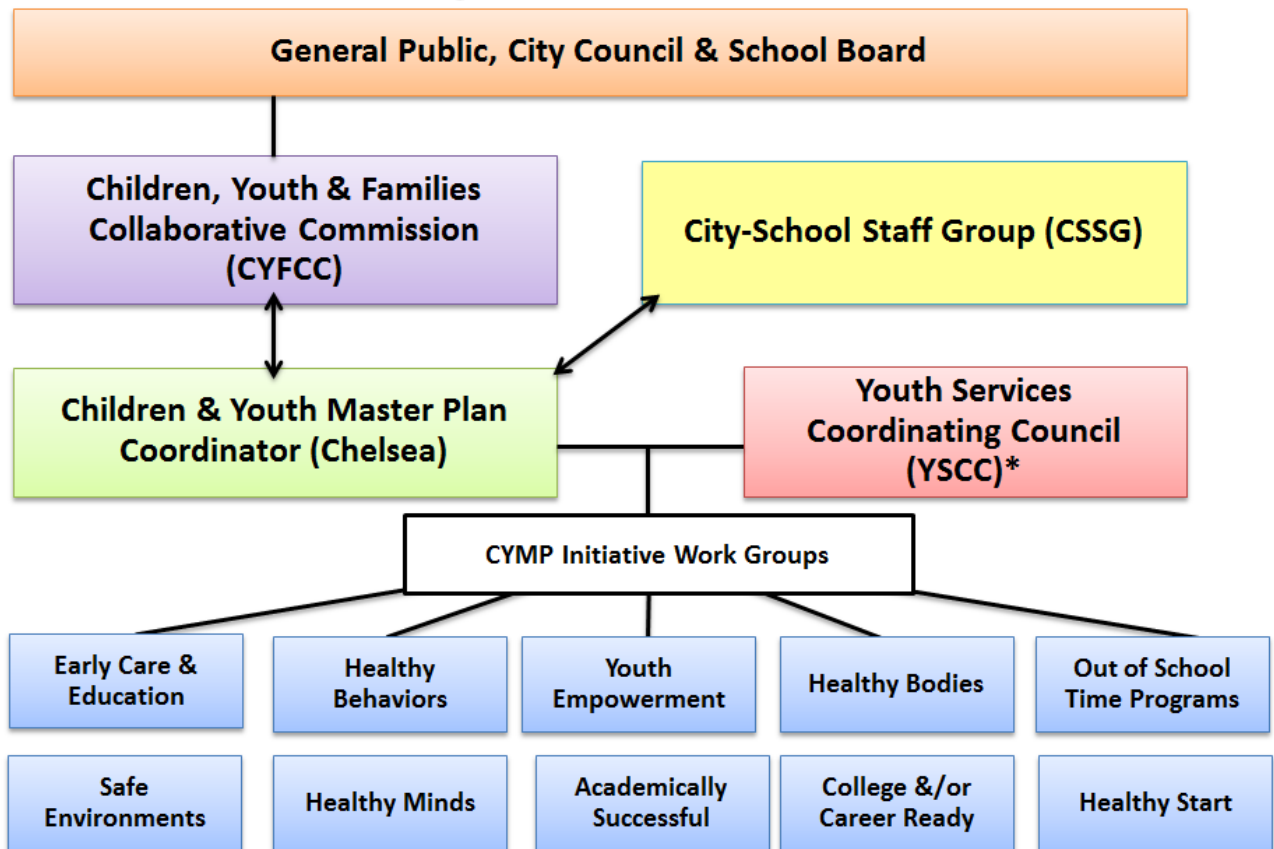
Community Engagement

What's happening?

- Building relationships and trust with stakeholders (i.e. anyone who cares about children and youth outcomes) will be ongoing and at the heart of this work.
- The CYMP was introduced to Peer Educators (youth employed by the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy) and they were asked to weigh in on each initiative. Their perspective and ideas on key issues and work group activities will be critical throughout the implementation process.
  - The Peer Educators helped plan the kick off meeting for the Youth Empowerment Work Group

What difference does this make?

- Community members and youth
  - are aware of key issues and initiatives, and
  - have opportunities to participate in planning and decision making.

Children & Youth Master Plan (CYMP)
Organizational Structure

General Public, City Council & School Board

Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC)

City-School Staff Group (CSSG)

Children & Youth Master Plan Coordinator (Chelsea)

Youth Services Coordinating Council (YSCC)*

CYMP Initiative Work Groups

Early Care & Education	Healthy Behaviors	Youth Empowerment	Healthy Bodies	Out of School Time Programs
Safe Environments	Healthy Minds	Academically Successful	College &/or Career Ready	Healthy Start

*Youth Services Coordinating Council – A forum through which youth-service providers and work group members meet to discuss their progress and challenges and find ways to collaborate.

Progress of Work Groups and Initiatives

Stage: Mid stages of implementing

Early Care and Education: *Create an early care and education system that prepares children to succeed in life and in school*

Highlights:

- The structure of and collaboration within the ECEW has been gaining strength over time, with several additional members added to the group in 2017 to enhance the representation from the health sector and organizations serving children ages 0-3.
  - ECEW meetings are held monthly, are well attended and feature robust discussion. The group has recently adopted a committee structure with members taking on leadership roles on specific projects to move the work forward.
- Twice a year, the ECEW asks its members to reflect on how the development and implementation of the early care and education collective impact initiative is progressing. This year:
  - o 94% of ECEW members agreed that partners in the ECEW understand each other's work and how it supports the common agenda; and
  - o 100% of ECEW members agreed that the ECEW has a common set of outcomes and indicators that can provide evidence of progress in alignment with the common agenda.
- For more information about the ECEW and their 2017 highlights, see their Annual Report: https://www.actforalexandria.org/sites/default/files/field/December2017_Report.pdf

Out-of-School-Time Programs: *Create an integrated and aligned out-of-school time system*

Highlights:

- Coordinated Alexandria's first annual Out-of School Time Summit designed to offer an ongoing platform for collaboration, professional development and the alignment of OSTP services citywide. For more information about the OSTP Work Group, contact Margaret Orlando at margaret.orlando@alexandriava.gov
- The U.S. Department of Education awarded ACPS $179, 271 annually for three years to administer LINK Club (Linking Instruction, Nurturing Knowledge), a 21st Century Community Learning Center program which launched in October 2017
- LINK Club is designed to provide high quality after-school services with an emphasis on math and literacy learning to high-need, low-income students. LINK Club operates Monday-Friday between the hours of 3-6PM at Brent Place Apartments, an affordable housing high rise in Alexandria's west-end.
- For more information and highlights, see the LINK Club Report (contact Shanna Samson at shanna.samson@acps.k12.va.us)

Stage: Early stages of developing

Healthy Behaviors: *Prevent or reduce the risk of developing a behavioral health problem, while promoting developmental assets among young people*

Status:

- This group is meets monthly and has begun developing their action plan around four developmental assets: Positive Family Communication, Community Values Youth, Creative Activities, and Personal Power.
- "Initiative Owners" include:
  - o Alexandria's Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP),
  - o Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS),
  - o Alexandria Health Department – Teen Wellness Center (TWC),
  - o Alexandria Police Department (APD),
  - o Court Services Unit – Gang Prevention (CSU-GP),
  - o Department of Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities (RPCA),
  - o Partnership for Healthier Alexandria (PHA),
  - o Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA), and

o   the Sexual Assault Center (SAC)

Youth Empowerment: *Increase the proportion of young people who feel like they have useful roles in the community, feel good about themselves, and feel like they can make a difference in the world*

Status:

- This work group will focus on creating and promoting more leadership, civic engagement, and empowerment opportunities for young people living in Alexandria.
- The first work group meeting was held in July. ACAP's Peer Educators helped plan the agenda, which was discussion-based and included a youth panel and community mapping activity.
  - o   The youth panel helped adults understand why only 19% of Alexandria's young people feel like their community values them, and why less than half feel safe in their community, school, or home.
  - o   Together adults mapped the current youth engagement efforts across our community and youth identified the places where they feel safe.

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Stage: Exploration & Capacity Building

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Safe Environments: *Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect, as well as ensure that more youth feel safe at home, school, in their neighborhood, and while interacting with service providers*

Status: Currently mapping out the Trauma-Informed efforts across our community and gauging the level of interest in implementing a Trauma-informed Community Network (TICN) in Alexandria. A TICN:

- Creates a mechanism for information sharing, collaboration, and the sharing of resources.
- Increases awareness of a community's trauma-informed and healing efforts, and identifies areas that the group can collectively build upon.
- Increases the capacity of local government and their partners to implement the principles of Trauma-Informed Care and to build resiliency in the individuals, families and communities that they serve.

Healthy Minds: *Reduce the rate of depression and suicidal ideation, especially among the LGBTQ students*

Status:

- Hosted a series of group conversations with stakeholders to deepen our understanding of the problem, root causes, the landscape of services and to help determine what the best approach is for addressing this pressing issue.
- The best approach will be to combine efforts with the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria's Mental Health Priority Area. Everyone who is interested in children's mental health will be directed to this Priority Area to help:
  - o   build capacity and strengthen what already exists and
  - o   develop and implement new strategies for the upcoming CHIP focused on children's mental health and map what's currently being done in this area

Healthy Bodies: *Promote physical, social, and emotional wellness among children and youth*

Status:

- The Co-Chairs of the Healthy Eating, Active Living Group (HEAL, part of the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria) agreed to combine our efforts into one work group that supports the goals of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the Children and Youth Master Plan.
- They will soon start planning the next CHIP for 2024.

Caring Adults*: Increase the proportion of young people who have caring adults in their lives*

Status:

- Since March, the CYMP Coordinator and members of the Youth Development Team have been helping the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) with Strategic Planning and aligning mentoring programs in the City.
- In June, the AMP was given an overview of the Developmental Assets framework, and together they selected the following assets that they can build together: Other Adult Relationships, Community Values Youth, Self Esteem, and Sense of Purpose

- The AMP will continue to be supported with capacity building activities. This initiative will be monitored under the Youth Empowerment Initiative.

Academic Excellence and Educational Equity: *Support ACPS's Objectives to target achievement and opportunity gaps while increasing positive educational outcomes*

Status: Will explore what external support can be provided to the ACPS efforts.

College and/or Career Readiness and Attainment: *Support ACPS's Objectives to reduce disparities in college and career readiness to ensure that students are ready to pursue college, or a career, or independent living*

Status: Will explore linkages to other efforts focused on this area.

Healthy Start: *Promote the health & well-being of pregnant women & babies in the first year of life, especially among African Americans*

Status: Will explore linkages to other efforts focused on this area.