

Children Youth And Families Collaborative Commission
Annual Report
July 2018 – June 2019

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) provides 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 the City of Alexandria. Within these guidelines, the CYFCC membership completed the following activities during its 2018/19 year.

CYFCC Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Membership remained steady throughout the year with most vacancies being filled. Currently there are two open slots for young adults and one for a youth member.

CYFCC Member Activities

- ✓ **Increased our collective efforts to:**
 - **support youth leadership** by establishing the Youth Empowerment Work Group in July 2018
 - **promote mental health among young people** by establishing the Healthy Minds Work Group in January of 2019
 - **promote positive youth development and building developmental assets** by facilitating action planning with the Healthy Behaviors Work Group
 - **advance trauma-informed policies and build a strong, resilient Alexandria** by taking the first steps in launching Alexandria's Trauma-Informed Community Network
 - **focus on community engagement, data, and shared outcomes** by convening ACPS, DCHS, the Alexandria Health Department, and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to discuss the alignment of the three City-Wide plans up for renewal this year: the CYMP, ACPS Strategic Plan, and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- ✓ **Supported a trauma-informed and resilient workforce and therefore service delivery** by transitioning the Center for Children and Families into a trauma-informed center, beginning with trauma-informed supervision
- ✓ **Strengthened Children, Youth, & Families Collaborative Commission's:**
 - **discussions around emerging issues** by adopting the use of a decision tree
 - **alignment and support of the CYMP** by creating five new, CYMP goal-oriented subcommittees
- ✓ **Strengthened our performance measurement** by developing a new template for stakeholders to report their progress; this template provides a structure for analyzing the

effectiveness of our work by using a results-based accountability (RBA) framework. 40+ programs used the template for the first time in March 2019

- ✓ **Increased collaboration, professional development, and the alignment of OSTP services citywide** among after school providers through the second annual OSTP forum on May 16, 2019
- ✓ **Deepened our collective understanding of why 81% of youth report not feeling valued by our community** through the Youth Empowerment Work Group's "Listening Tour," hearing from nearly 500 youth

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- CYFCC celebrated their annual **Champions of Children Awards** with the largest turnout we've had since the awards were introduced three years ago. City leaders, families and friends honored Michael Diggins, Savannah Ferster, Dylan Ignacio, Jill Schaub, Fredy Martinez, Candance Hill, Leigh Lapaglia, Shelly Morgan and Paul Wilson.

Goals for 2018-2019

2019-20 Priorities:

- **Goal 1 Committee Priority:** Explore funding opportunities, programs, and initiatives that address and strengthen preschool, school, and community safety.
Examples: community safety fair, community resource guide
- **Goal 2 Committee Priority:** Invest in college and career readiness programs, including work-based learning programs and apprenticeships; increase investment and access to early childhood education programs
Example: increased funding for VPI (VA Preschool Initiative).
- **Goal 3 Committee Priority:** Increase youth empowerment initiatives.
Examples: decrease bullying and substance abuse; improve outcomes related to children's mental health
- **Goal 4 Committee Priority:** Increase investment and access to programs that empower families.
- **Goal 5 Committee Priority:** Increase investment and access to early childhood education programs, including increased funding to address facilities, infrastructure, and school capacity.
Example: represent Commission in enhanced CYMP planning process

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the May 2018 meeting: Jamica Littles will serve as Chair, Kelly Organek as Chair-Elect.
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Councilman Canek Aguirre
 - Ameena Ashraf

- Councilman Willie Bailey
- Ronnie Campbell (past School Board liaison)
- Councilman John Chapman
- Julie Crawford
- Rose Dawson
- Laura Durham
- Kate Garvey
- Karen Graf (past School board liaison)
- Jacinta Green (liaison for School Board)
- Amanda Hazelwood
- Bryana Head
- J. Glenn Hopkins,
- Kurt Huffman
- Councilwoman Amy Jackson
- Peter Kallin
- Melissa Ann Little
- Jamica Littles
- Mike Mackey
- Tammy Mann
- Brent McKenzie
- Edward O'Keefe
- Kelley Organek
- Maile Organek
- Brian Orrenmaa
- Javan Owens
- Stephen Parker
- Dianara Saget
- Istra Shuster
- Michelle Smith-Howard
- Heather Thornton (liaison for School Board)
- Malka Zeefe

- Noraine Buttar and the Department of Community and Human Services acted as the staff liaison to CYFCC during the course of the 2018/2019 year.

Attachments

1. Budget letters to City Council
2. CYFCC Structure Plan