

**Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission**  
**Annual Report**  
**July 2019 – June 2020**

**Summary of Accomplishments**

**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 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 2019/20 year:**

**CYFCC Policy and Membership Accomplishments**

- Membership remained steady throughout the year and we filled most vacancies.
- Supported the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria's legislative proposal to increase the cigarette tax.
- Submitted a letter to City Council and the School Board requesting that they receive a briefing on the issue of vaping among Alexandria youth.

**CYFCC Member Activities**

- Chair, Jamaica Littles attended the Children's Cabinet Network Summit. She brought the information to the CYFCC and led a discussion on integrating what she learned in future Commission work
- Planned and implemented the Children and Youth Master Plan 2025 Kick Off in December
- Reviewed themes from the CYMP Legacy Workshops
- Reviewed CYMP strategies to determine if they were equitable
- Identified champions for CYMP strategies

**Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments**

- Celebrated the release of the Children and Youth Master Plan Five Year report (attached).

**Goals for 2020-2021**

- To support the creation and implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan 2025
- The Commission will also carry forward last year's 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

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- **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 not elected due to COVID: Kelley Organek will serve as Chair. Chair-Elect will remain vacant until the group is able to meet again. Jamica Littles, Past-Chair, will support the Chair.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed
  - Annabelle O-Keefe, appointed 03.10.2020
  - Justin Williams – appointed 6.10.2020
  - Angela Green, appointed 6.10.2020
  - Garrison Hayes, appointed 6.10.2020
  - Ashley Marie Sanchez Vifara – appointed 9.10.2019
  - Lou Whiting – appointed 1.14.2020
  - Davina Little – appointed 1.14.2020
  - Peter Kallin – resigned
  - Brent McKenzie – resigned
  - Stephen Parker – resigned
  - Michelle Smith-Howard – resigned
  - Isra Shuster – term expired
  - Malka Zeefe - resigned
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
  - Councilman Canek Aguirre
  - Councilwoman Amy Jackson
  - Dana Chambers
  - Julie Crawford
  - Rose Dawson
  - Laura Durham
  - Kate Garvey
  - Jacinta Greene

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- Amanda Hazelwood
- J. Glenn Hopkins
- Kurt Huffman
- Peter Kallin
- Jamica Littles
- Mike Mackey
- Tammy Mann
- Brent McKenzie
- Kelley Organek
- Maile Organek
- Brian Orrenmaa
- Javan Owens
- Stephen Parker
- Dianara Saget
- Ashley Sanchez-Viafara
- Chrishna Sherlock
- Isra Shuster
- Michelle Smith-Howard
- Heather Thornton
- Lou Whiting
- Malka Zeefe

  

- Noraine Buttar and the DCHS acted as the staff liaison to CYFCC during the course of the 2019/2020 year.

**Attachments**

1. Revised draft ordinance, March 2020
2. Children and Youth Master Plan Five Year Report Release December 2019
3. Vaping letter sent to City Council, October 2019
4. Example of CYMP planning using Results Based Accountability Framework