

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2015
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

William Chesley
Rose Dawson
Kate Garvey
J. Glenn Hopkins
Stacey Joyner
Gwendolyn Lewis

Councilman Tim Lovain
Mike Mackey
Gerald Mann
Tammy Mann
Christy Martinez
Sean McEneaney

Gwen Mullen
Brian Orrenamaa
Anthony R. Smith
Kendallee Walker
Margaret Walsh

Excused Absent

Chanece Bigelow
Gisselle Brown
William Campbell

Councilman John Chapman
Jeffrey Murphy
Joyce Rawlings

Carlos Suber
Marc Williams

Unexcused Absent

Sonia Price

Eric Williams

Staff

Jacqueline Coachman
Carol Farrell

Barbara Farrington

Ron Frazier

WELCOME

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

The approval of minutes of the December meeting was deferred to the March meeting.

FY16 BUDGET UPDATE

Kate Garvey began the presentation with the fact the City is facing a \$30 million shortfall during the next budget cycle. A handout provided an overview of what is involved in the development of the budget. The budget will be released on March 3 and a public hearing scheduled for 4:00 on March 16. Chair Sean McEneaney asked senior staff to provide some education to the community regarding programs that preliminary assessments indicate can be sacrificed. Glenn Hopkins asked that the City Manager include in his comments on the budget the rationale for what is or is not included in the budget. Mr. Hopkins recommended a letter be sent to the City Manager inviting him to respond. Brian Orrenamaa asked what letter will ask the City Manager to do. The response of Mr. Hopkins was the City Manager will be asked to respond to input from citizens. By way of example, one question could be if child welfare is a high priority, why does the budget not reflect that? Mr. Hopkins moved that the letter be sent to the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Gwen Lewis. The letter is to be drafted by Mr. Hopkins and approved by the Executive Committee. The motion passed with no opposition

CYFCC RETREAT DEBRIEF & NEXT STEPS

Each group at the retreat was asked to identify key priorities. It was agreed that in the future, CYFCC will support the work of the implementation plan. One issue that should be addressed is how subcommittees can support the implementation plan. Mr. Hopkins stated what is needed is a measurable implementation plan with definitive dates.

Margee Walsh indicated the need for dedicated staff for CYFCC. Mr. Hopkins recommended dedicated staff be included in the budget, but Ms. Garvey stated there is no room in the budget and some direction from CYFCC would be helpful. The position of Tammy Mann was the CYFCC is in a difficult position because so little information on the budget is available. She also recommended there be more conversation about the data management system – a topical approach is not going to help. Ms. Lewis noted lots of resources are dedicated to elementary school students and less to students in middle and high school. The response of Ms. Mann was a person can form a bridge and accelerate a focus. There is a need to look at all elements, advised Mr. Hopkins, and then make it work.

It was the motion of Ms. Mann that the Commission prioritize in writing the resources available to support the development of a robust implementation plan and support continuing progress for a backbone organization and early childhood plan. The motion was seconded by Glenn Hopkins. Chair McEneaney asked where dedicated staff would be placed organizationally and the response of Ms. Walsh was DCHS and specifically to support CYFCC and the implementation plan. Ms. Mann cautioned against losing ground on such efforts as the Memorandum of Understanding between ACT for Alexandria and the City. The position should not be seen as taking away from the ACT effort and will operate “in concert with commitments already made”. Mr. Hopkins asked that staff produce the memo.

Ms. Mann made the following motion: To authorize the Commission chair, subject to final approval by the Executive Committee, to send a letter to the Mayor, members of Council, and the City Manager expressing the urgency and need for resources to be allocated in the City budget to hire a City government employee with sole responsibility for coordination of the implementation of the CYMP. Ms. Lewis expressed the importance of the focus of this person being the entire of continuum of youth in the City and not just the younger ones. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh and passed. Mr. Garvey and Councilman Lovain abstained.

The discussion of an elevator message to assure all commissioners convey the same message was tabled

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The next meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee will be March 4, which is one day after the FY 2016 budget is released. The focus of the Advocacy Committee has been monitoring the General Assembly. One issue before the legislators is background checks for people working with kids. A bill provided for background checks is expected to pass this session. Mr. Frazier asked if the bill included funding for background checks. While money is included on the Senate side, the House bill includes no money. Mr. Hopkins also noted that some bills regarding the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) are in conflict and will be put on hold until it is determined how regulations that conflict can be resolved. Carol Farrell stated the State is recommending the

threshold for VPI be 130% of poverty. At the current time, each municipality sets its own income guideline and in Alexandria that is 250% of poverty.

Rose Dawson congratulated Brian Orrenamaa on his appointment to CYFCC and Mike Mackey on his reappointment. Several commissioners need to choose a subcommittee and a new chair needs to be identified for Implementation & Research. Chair McEneaney stated there is nothing in the bylaws that say a commissioner must be a member of a committee; he will bring this matter up at the next Executive Committee.

ADJOURNMENT