

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – JUNE 11, 2013
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

Emma Beall	Samuel Hanoura	Timothy Peterson
Rosario Casiano	Stacey Joyner	Sonia Price
Councilman John Chapman	Councilman Timothy Lovain	Joyce Rawlings
William Chesley	Mike Mackey	Cynthia Skinner
Andria Cook	Tammy Mann	Dan Solomon
Rose Dawson	Sean McEnearney	Margaret Walsh
Mike Gilmore	Gwen Mullen	Emma West
	Jeffrey Murphy	Marc Williams

Excused Absent

Bill Campbell
Charlotte Clinger
J. Glenn Hopkins

Unexcused Absent

Victoria Cattaneo

Guests

Bernard Jackson

Staff Present

Jacqueline Coachman	Ron Frazier	Deborah Warren
Carol Farrell		

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT MAY 8 MEETING NOTES

Sean McEnearney moved approval of the amended May meeting notes. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Chapman.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The candidates for the position of Chair-Elect were J. Glenn Hopkins and Sean McEnearney. Mr. McEnearney received 13 of the 21 ballots cast and was congratulated as the new Chair-Elect.

REVIEW OF CYFCC SURVEY

An online poll was distributed to CYFCC commissioners to assess the first year of CYFCC. As a follow-up to that survey, commissioners discussed expectations for the upcoming year. Mr. McEnearney hopes CYFCC will take the City to the next level by identifying what is not being done and pushing the limits of what is known and understood. He stated while things have gotten better, there are still things to do and it is the job of CYFCC to determine what is needed to assure all children succeed. To that end, much more debate of the challenges and how CYFCC should respond to those challenges is in order. Chair-Elect Timothy Peterson suggested tasks be devised to move things along, and that those tasks be driven by the youth master plan. Margee Walsh stated the Profile of Youth Well-Being should guide the debate. She also recommended CYFCC become more strategic; one way of doing so is to discuss how commissioners as individuals execute their roles between meetings. It was the position of Cynthia Skinner that CYFCC has yet to attain the level of credibility needed to say “this is what we need to happen”. She recommended established networks be used to push the work of the youth master plan forward. Chair Mann noted the strategy groups offer an opportunity to inform the process. Ms. Walsh asked how a sense of urgency can be maintained. Chair Mann understands the sense of urgency, but how to maintain that sense of urgency should be explored.

Councilman Tim Lovain is seeking more opportunity to bring elected officials, nonprofits, staff, youth, and community members together. Gwen Mullen noted that power comes from expanding beyond groups like the Design Team. Marc Williams indicated a need for more coordination as well as assistance with attendance, language development, and initiatives such as books in homes.

Dan Solomon inquired as to the process for CYFCC decision-making during the summer. In response, the Executive Committee was empowered to address any issues that arise during the summer break on behalf of CYFCC.

DISCUSSION OF 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Accomplishments of the Advocacy Committee since the May meeting include publishing the second of four planned opinion articles; sending thank you letters to members of the City Council for their support for funding programs for children, youth and families in the City's FY14 budget; and updating the Committee Work Plan. The next focus is the legislative agenda. To assure its completion by the Labor Day deadline, the Advocacy Committee will meet over the summer. Chair Mann asked that the proposed agenda be shared with CYFCC members when completed.

Based on information shared at a meeting of the City-School Staff Group, Rose Dawson informed commissioners of the State requirement that Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) teachers be certified by 2016. This poses a challenge because of the impact on salaries of VPI teachers. A way around that impact would be using VPI funds for other than teacher salaries. A report on VPI is to be released shortly; Carol Farrell is to share the embargoed report.

YOUTH MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The first draft of the core strategies devised by the Design Team work groups will be available before July 13. The executive summary and a more detailed plan with action steps will be distributed by mid-to-late August. Chair-Elect Peterson inquired as to the product that will result from the CYFCC-Design Team retreat on July 13. The response was a set of strategies and initial action steps in every strategy area. Dan Solomon asked that CYFCC vote on the Profile of Well-Being before it is released. Cynthia Skinner stated the Executive Committee will meet over the summer to approve the profile after it has been reviewed by the full commission, and any CYFCC member is welcome to attend. In accordance with the request by Mr. Solomon, Ms. Skinner moved that the profile be distributed to the full commission, and that a meeting to review the document be scheduled and posted. If there is no quorum at that meeting, the Executive Committee is authorized to approve the document. John Chapman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A priority of CYFCC is assuring the youth master plan moves forward expeditiously. To that end, Bruce Jones, Manager of Community Evaluation for the Forum for Youth Investment, made a presentation on the Online Documentation and Support System (ODSS) – a web-based recording, measurement, and reporting tool. The tool helps practitioners document their work, including their efforts to deliver services or bring about community and system change. ODSS is more about community-wide change than program evaluation.

Ms. Skinner addressed next steps with regard to the youth master plan, including hearings before the City Council. Mr. McEneaney urged that the School Board be engaged as well. Another option is the joint City Council/School Board work session. Mr. Solomon asked that a formal timeline of the youth master plan process be available by the September CYFCC meeting

STATUS REPORT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Chair Mann discussed the event being sponsored by the Early Care & Education Work Group (a partnership with ACT for Alexandria, Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation, and the Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission). The focus of the panel of experts from Virginia and around the country will be innovative, systems-based approaches for improving access to and quality of early care and education services.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.