

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING NOTES – MARCH 16, 2016**  
**CITY HALL, ROOM 2000**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Natnael Adere	J. Glenn Hopkins	Joyce Rawlings
Councilman Will Bailey	Mike Mackey	Michael Suppa
Robin Blair	Gwendolyn Lewis	Kendallee Walker
Councilman John Chapman	Tammy Mann	Eric Williams
Kate Garvey	Gwen Mullen	

**Excused Absent**

Gisselle Brown	Rose Dawson	Gerald Mann
Ronnie Campbell	Ramee Gentry	Brian Orrenmaa
William Chesley	Melissa Little	Sonia Price
Julie Crawford		

**Unexcused Absent**

Carlos Suber

**Staff**

Jacqueline Coachman	Jonathan Leonberger	Deborah Warren
Ron Frazier		

**Guests**

Ingris Moran

**WELCOME**

After the meeting was called to order by Chair Tammy Mann, all in attendance were introduced.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT FEBRUARY MINUTES**

There being no changes to the draft minutes, Glenn Hopkins moved approval and the motion was seconded by Kate Garvey. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/PLANS**

Glenn Hopkins, Chair of the Advocacy/Policy Committee, provided an update on state legislation. During its 2016 legislative session, the Virginia General Assembly approved \$25.4 million in new investments for early childhood education over the biennium, including an increase of 2% in the per pupil rate for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (from \$6,000 per pupil to \$6,125). The General Assembly also established a statewide rule for VPI income eligibility – below 200% of poverty while allowing localities to enroll up to 15% of VPI students above the income cut-off if they meet locally established risk factors. The legislature also approved an additional \$13.5 million for home visiting parent and health education services; increased state funds for early intervention by \$1.7 million in FY17 and \$2.5 million in FY18; established a

two-year pilot of \$1.5 million each year for testing new approaches for public-private preschool partnerships; and recommended \$600,000 the first year and \$1.3 million the second year for the creation of scholarships and a competency-based credentialing system through the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. The focus of the next legislative update by Advocacy will be city legislation. Because of their limited ability to influence it, the committee determined it will no longer monitor federal legislation.

Gwen Mullen recommended CYFCC advocate for city legislative initiatives that address a broad range of youth. Gwen Lewis expressed the need to advocate for age groups other than preschoolers and incorporate the broader focus in the legislative agenda. Councilman Will Bailey moved approval of the legislative agenda. The motion was seconded by Gwen Lewis and passed unanimously.

### **Budget & Finance**

Chair Mann has been attending meetings of Budget & Finance and provided the committee report. Stacey Johnson, ACPS Chief Financial Officer, and Morgan Routt, the City's Director of Management and Budget, provided briefings on their respective budgets at meetings of the committee. Those presentations influenced the content of the statement submitted by CYFCC during the March 14 budget hearing.

### **Membership & Outreach**

On behalf of Membership & Outreach, Ron Frazier presented a draft of a newsletter. Because of the number of inquiries regarding the status of the plan, Joyce Rawlings found the one-pager helpful. Deborah Warren recommended a text box be included that highlights the accomplishments of CYFCC.

### **Research & Data**

Jacqueline Coachman provided an overview of tentative plans for a survey that will solicit youth input on the matter of equity. Michael Suppa lifted up the extensive efforts of Cheryl Robinson, ACPS Cultural Competency Coordinator, which included a round of observations. He recommended becoming familiar with the type of data being collected and any reports prepared as a result of those observations. The comments by Mr. Suppa were supported by Joyce Rawlings.

Ms. Coachman ended her comments with a statement shared by a member of a youth panel convened by Agenda: Alexandria. The student noted STEM classes are on one floor at Minnie Howard while general education classes are on the lower floor. Because his friends are in classes on the first floor, he made the decision not to enroll in STEM classes. The hesitancy of youth to move beyond their comfort zone is a longstanding issue in the opinion of Councilman Chapman. Ms. Rawlings recommended youth be spread out, which would afford them the opportunity to see more of their friends in class. Councilman Bailey stressed the need for youth to intermingle and reach beyond their comfort zone. Ms. Garvey noted the issue of cultural separation surfaced during the observations conducted by Ms. Robinson. Ron Frazier commented on a previous effort that assessed tracking in ACPS and advised against returning to that system. He also noted the Development Asset Survey allows the addition of up to ten questions which could be used to target issues like equity.

Councilman Chapman recommended a letter be prepared regarding the intermingling of students, noting CYFCC deemed this a matter worthy of the attention of the School Board as well as an assessment of the ramifications. Mr. Adere, a CYFCC youth member, commented on the tension at T.C. Williams and the perception of forced assimilation. Kendallee Walker, the other youth member, said the Leadership class at T. C. Williams does not represent the student body. Glenn Hopkins made a motion to forward such a letter to the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Gwen Lewis and passed unanimously.

**Implementation Monitoring**

Gwen Mullen reported that the Implementation Monitoring committee met with staff to review next steps. Committee members attended all the goal group sessions.

**FOIA INFORMATION**

Commissioners were provided with a copy of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.