

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MARCH 14, 2012
CITY COUNCIL WORKROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

Emma Beall	Samuel Hanoura	Amy Fortney Parks
Lillian Brooks	Gregory Hutchings	Timothy Peterson
Rosario Casiano	Timothy Kennedy	Joyce Rawlings
William Chesley	Councilman Rob Krupicka	Cynthia Skinner
Andria Cook	Tammy Mann	Carri Stoltz
Rose Dawson	Gwen Mullen	Margaret Walsh
Mike Gilmore	Jeffrey Murphy	Marc Williams
Sheryl Gorsuch		

Excused Absent

Onelio Aguilar	Councilwoman Alicia Hughes	Sonia Price
Victoria Cattaneo	J. Glenn Hopkins	

Unexcused Absent

Lidiya Alemu	Natalie Presley	
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Officials

Debra Collins

Guests

Richard Merritt

Staff

Jacqueline Coachman
Carol Farrell

Barbara Farrington
Ron Frazier

Mike Mackey
Deborah Warren

Approval of the February 8, 2012 Meeting Notes

A motion to approve the meeting notes was made by Rose Dawson, seconded by Mike Gilmore, and approved unanimously.

Receipt of the Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of Commission Officers

The Nominating Committee recommended Dr. Tammy Mann as Chair and Timothy Peterson as Chair-Elect. After receiving no additional recommendations from the floor, Ms. Walsh made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brooks and approved unanimously.

Presentation on the CYFCC Ad Hoc Budget Committee's Review of the City's Proposed FY 2013 Budget

Dr. Mann briefed the Commission on the deliberations of the Ad Hoc committee, which were summarized in a PowerPoint presentation. The committee focused on the budget in its entirety since programs and services that impact children, youth and families involve departments in addition to the Department of Community and Human Services. Funding to support Community

and Human Services represent 35 percent of total expenditures in the Proposed Budget; 88 percent of that amount is associated with the ACPS transfer. One area of concern was a proposed 400 percent increase in the Recreation fees paid by parents during the school year. William Chesley noted scholarships will be available for families with limited incomes. Another concern noted was the potential decrease in the hours of the Teen Wellness Center as a result of a reduction in State funding. Councilman Krupicka will request a budget memo regarding what it would cost for the City to maintain the current level of services. It was recommended that a special fund be established to address the unmet needs and access barriers for children of low-income families in the City, and that Council allocate funding to support one FTE in DCHS to administer the fund. It was also recommended that FY13 Budget pie-chart presentation separate funds allocated for children, youth and families from funds allocated to the public schools.

The Commission unanimously approved a motion by Gwen Mullen (seconded by Ms. Walsh) that written communication be forwarded to City Council that outlines the CYFCC position on the proposed budget. The motion provided the Chair and Chair-elect with the flexibility to raise additional concerns. Deborah Warren noted that seven Department of Community and Human Services budget memos will provide additional information. Staff was asked to provide Commissioners with the link when the budget memoranda are posted.

Establishment of Commission Committees and Discussion of the Process for Further Populating the Committees with Community Members

Staff distributed a matrix of the committee choices of the Commission members. The Nominating Committee recommended the Commission convene a retreat to include discussion of committee purposes and tasks.

Discussion of Commission Priorities

Dr. Mann queried the Commissioners as to what should be accomplished by the end of CYFCC's first year. Ms. Brooks expressed a need for a discussion of the activities to be pursued. The priorities of Carri Stolz are enhanced collaboration among all sectors of the community and better integration of services for children, youth and families. It was the position of Ms. Walsh that a firm understanding of need would be valuable. To that end, she recommended the resources of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia and in particular their series on Poverty and the Social Services Safety Net. Ms. Walsh also recommended that Commissioners forward their thoughts on first year accomplishments electronically. Staff will send out a survey asking Commissioners for their ideas about year-end accomplishments.

Discussion of Commission Orientation, Training and Possible Organizational Retreat

Ms. Brooks stated the Nominating Committee discussed holding a retreat in the near future to provide Commissioners with a knowledge base regarding programs and services. This would enable the Commission to be better informed when committees are populated, and that knowledge base could be the foundation for the identification of priorities. Deborah Warren presented potential dates for the retreat. It was agreed additional dates in June would be considered.

Brief Update on the Development of the Youth Master Plan

Ron Frazier informed the Commission that the Request for Proposals for the youth master plan is being processed by Procurement. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded around June 15 with the expectation that the consultant will be on board prior to the end of the fiscal year. Consultants used by other jurisdictions were identified and a notification regarding the pending release of the RFP will be forwarded to them electronically by the end of the second week in March. Ms. Warren requested that any Commissioners who know of consultants with this brand of expertise provide her with that information. She also noted the involvement of Commissioners would be valuable to the planning process for the youth master plan.

Other Issues

Timothy Peterson raised the matter of a time limit for meetings. It was agreed Commission meetings would be scheduled for 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Warren noted that the City had received a grant from America's Promise. A portion of those funds will be used to host a reception in celebration of initiatives in the America's Promise proposal as well as the establishment of the Commission. She also asked that Commissioners provide their thoughts on initiatives that should be included in the next America's Promise proposal, which is due May 17.

Richard Merritt, Chair of the Public Health Advisory Commission and the Environmental Health Work Group (Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria), distributed a press release regarding Kick Butts Day, a national day of activism that engages youth in activities that raise awareness of the problems of tobacco use in schools and the community. On that day (March 21), Alexandria will celebrate the placement of smoke-free signs in the City's 122 bus shelters. Mr. Merritt also noted that this initiative would be an excellent candidate for the America's Promise proposal.

Ms. Warren informed the Commissioners that the March meeting would be the last meeting of Ms. Brooks, Director of Court Services. Ms. Brooks is retiring. Commissioners congratulated Ms. Brooks on her retirement.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.