

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MAY 13, 2015
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Present

William Campbell
William Chesley
Rose Dawson
Kate Garvey
Stacey Joyner
Gwendolyn Lewis

Councilman Tim Lovain
Mike Mackey
Gerald Mann
Tammy Mann
Sean McEneaney
Gwen Mullen

Jeffrey Murphy
Brian Orrenamaa
Joyce Rawlings
Margaret Walsh
Eric Williams

Excused Absent

Gisselle Brown
Councilman John Chapman

J. Glenn Hopkins
Sonia Price

Kendallee Walker
Marc Williams

Unexcused Absent

Christy Martinez

Anthony R. Smith

Carlos Suber

Staff

Jacqueline Coachman

Barbara Farrington

Ron Frazier

Guests

Allen Lomax

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sean McEneaney.

JOINT CITY/ACPS LONG RANGE FACILITIES GROUP PRESENTATION

Mark Eisenhour of Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and Pat Mann of the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning provided an overview of the draft plan developed by the Long Range Facilities Work Group. The plan, which is ready for distribution to the public, takes a more holistic approach to the repair and renovation of schools – one example being the incorporation of educational specifications in construction plans. Chair-Elect Kate Garvey asked if dedicated space for afterschool activities and social/health services is considered when crafting building plans. Mr. Eisenhour stated while educational standards regarding classroom size are 900 sq. ft. for elementary classrooms and 1,025 sq. ft. for kindergarten classrooms, many classrooms in ACPS elementary schools approximate 700-750 sq. ft. As a result, multipurpose rooms have been deemed a more feasible alternative than dedicated space. Another strategy ACPS has successfully employed is incorporating space for visiting dentists and doctors in the office of the school nurse.

Gwen Lewis asked how the multipurpose room model impacts the move to community schools that provide wraparound services. Margee Walsh noted the Superintendent and his cabinet have

met with leadership of Communities in Schools to pursue the possibilities. Chair McEneaney stated the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) advocates for more wraparound services.

REPORT ON ALLEGHENY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES/PUBLIC SCHOOL DATA SHARING

Chair-Elect Garvey briefed commissioners on the trip by staff of ACPS and the Alexandria Department of Community & Human Services to Allegheny County (PA) to learn more about the development of its data sharing system. The genesis of a partnership between the Allegheny Department of Human Services and the 42 school districts in Allegheny County was the realization that foster children were not faring well academically. Information is now shared that enables staff to know immediately what is happening with the children. By way of example, predictive analytics methodology is used to combat chronic absenteeism. Stacey Joyner noted the approach taken by Allegheny County is analogous to need for data to effectively run a business.

A question by Ms. Lewis as to whether the system was developed from scratch was answered in the affirmative. Chair-Elect Garvey noted discussions have begun with the Office of Performance Accountability as to whether the system it recently acquired will facilitate the development of a system akin to that of Allegheny County. Tammy Mann advised the overarching question is how data can enhance the delivery of services. Chair-Elect Garvey identified one enhancement of significance – the sharing of information by staff serving the same family.

Joyce Rawlings spoke to the importance of highlighting the childrearing practices of families in extreme circumstances who raised children successfully. She cited the 17 year-old T.C. Williams student whose success in boxing inspired an article in the *Washington Post*. Chair-Elect Garvey stated the focus of the proposed data sharing system will not be families by agency practices – how systems may have failed and what institutions are not doing what they should be doing. In response, Ms. Rawlings noted there is value in determining how families succeed in spite of institutional failings.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY BUDGET ALLOCATION

Chair-Elect Garvey reported the \$125,000 for CYMP staff support remains in the budget and the City Manager has final approval over how the funds are used. Chair-Elect Garvey advised a proposal be prepared that presents the City Manager with the rationale for a dedicated staff person to coordinate the implementation of the CYMP. The rationale should include the ability of such staff to leverage resources.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROGRESS

Gwen Mullen reported that four goals were adopted at the meeting of the Implementation and Monitoring Committee. The committee will be expanded beyond the three current members to broaden the expertise available to the committee to include all areas of CYMP goals. One way to achieve that is to involve more community groups. The expansion is to be accomplished by the end of June 2015. Ms. Lewis shared the goal of creating by December 2016 a continuum from birth to high school for all five goals. One charge to the committee is to keep CYFCC apprised of implementation progress. Stacey Joyner noted this task will be executed in concert with the staff person proposed to coordinate the implementation of the CYMP.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

Rose Dawson stated the slate of candidates for the positions of Chair and Chair-Elect has not been finalized. The vote will be taken at the June meeting.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT APRIL MINUTES

Ms. Lewis made the motion to approve the April meeting notes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dawson and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

DRAFT