

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

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Gisselle Brown  
William Campbell  
William Chesley  
Rose Dawson

Kate Garvey  
Gerald Mann  
Tammy Mann  
Gwen Mullen

Brian Orrenamaa  
Kendallee Walker  
Eric Williams

**Excused Absent**

Councilman John Chapman  
J. Glenn Hopkins  
Councilman Tim Lovain  
Mike Mackey

Sean McEneaney  
Jeffrey Murphy  
Sonia Price

Anthony R. Smith  
Margaret Walsh  
Marc Williams

**Unexcused Absent**

Stacey Joyner  
Gwendolyn Lewis

Joyce Rawlings

Carlos Suber

**Officials**

Julie Crawford

**Staff**

Jacqueline Coachman  
Carol Farrell  
Ron Frazier

Shanna Samson  
Deborah Warren

**WELCOME**

The meeting was opened by Chair Tammy Mann.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT OCTOBER MINUTES**

Bill Campbell moved the October minutes be accepted with the corrections noted by Gwen Mullen and Kate Garvey. The motion was seconded by Giselle Brown and approved unanimously.

**OVERVIEW OF THE CITY'S FY 2017 BUDGET PROCESS**

Morgan Routt, Acting Director of the City of Alexandria's Office of Management & Budget, presented a PowerPoint outlining next steps in the FY 2017 budget process. The focus area targets in December will be current services cost, revenue amount, and additions and reductions to balance. Preliminary estimates call for a \$20-\$30 million gap between revenues and expenditures, compared to a \$30 million gap in FY 20016. This is attributable to slow growth in revenues, and an increase in expenditures due to ACPS enrollment & non-enrollment, city employee compensation, cash capital and debt service, and the WMATA subsidy. Budget priority areas are increasing the number of affordable housing units; more active management of parking and traffic; generating new general fund revenues; improving city effectiveness and productivity via IT investments, and access for low-income working families to Pre-K and

childcare. Formal guidance from the City Council will be adopted on November 24. The City Manager will present the proposed budget at the second legislative meeting in February.

Chair Mann asked how the \$31 million gap in FY 2016 was addressed. The response of Mr. Routt was revenues increased by \$7 million and expenditures are expected to decrease by \$24 million. The reductions were summarized in budget memos.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE ALEXANDRIA RESULTS OF THE 2013-2014 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY**

Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer of ACPS, began his presentation with the acknowledgement that Alexandria is data rich and information poor. The goal of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is to obtain information on youth behavior in areas contributing to the leading causes of death, disability and social problems in youth and adults: physical health, behaviors that contribute to unintentional or intentional injuries, alcohol and other drug use, tobacco use, and sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and dietary behavior. The survey was completed by 1,591 students in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. It was the first time ACPS administered the survey on a laptop.

Health behaviors among teens that showed improvement since the 2011 survey were current use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, watching TV 3 or more hours a day, and physical activity for 5 or more days a week (10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade). Other health behaviors have declined since the 2011 survey and revealed growing areas of concern, namely physical activity 5 or more days a week (8<sup>th</sup> grade), use of computer screen 3 or more hours a day, and sleep hours on a typical school night. Of particular concern is the increase in reports of sad or hopeless feelings, serious consideration of suicide, and plans for suicide. Almost 40% of females reported sad or hopeless feelings for two or more weeks in the past twelve months. The number of students who seriously considered suicide increased from 9.7% to 15.5%. Hispanics were significantly more likely to report attempting suicide.

Gwen Mullen recommended that programs that target more than one behavior be promoted. It was the advice of Mr. Page that youth serving professionals join forces if working in silos, and one way of doing so is by the same messaging. Chair Mann stressed the need to make the findings accessible to students and solicit their input. Of particular importance is the perspective of students as to what is driving areas of concern, especially in mental health. She also asked about plans to create opportunities for dialogue. Mr. Page noted his office is teaming with staff from Student Services, Equity and Alternative Programs to present at a meeting of school counselors. The objective will be a specific action plan. In addition, the ACPS 2020 scorecard includes metrics based on the Developmental Asset survey and YRBS.

### **ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FOR FY 2016**

Small group discussions will be held in December to brainstorm issues and determine CYFCC priorities. Kate Garvey advised the selection of a priority (or priorities) that engages the public. Such activity cannot be accomplished by looking inward, but by devising strategies for reaching out. It is not about implementing the plan, noted Chair Mann, but gaining traction and rolling up sleeves. The goal is to determine what will enhance the ability of CYFCC to move the needle.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Budget & Finance has scheduled its next meeting. The date, time and place have been shared with all commissioners.

Advocacy has met twice since the last CYFCC meeting and has scheduled a meeting with Bernie Caton, the City's Legislative Director. The committee also added two objectives to its Committee Work Plan: advocate for sufficient state government resources to support programs for children, youth, and families in the Commonwealth; and advocate for sufficient city government resources to support programs for children, youth, and families in the City. The committee has also begun updating the advocacy plan and is committed to starting the process earlier.

Kendalee Walker, Chair of Research & Data, expressed her surprise with the YRBS findings and indicated the need for additional surveys. The Research Committee is recommending such surveys take place after CYFCC has identified its priorities. The survey(s) will be based on those priorities.

Implementation Monitoring is in need of a new co-chair due to the resignation of Stacey Joyner. The committee will schedule a meeting with Allen Lomax to discuss alignment with the initiatives of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria.

Rose Dawson, co-chair of Outreach & Membership, noted three appointments are about to expire: Sean McEearney, Joyce Rawlings, and her own. A template for a letter of support has been developed. Because Marc Williams will be leaving the School Board, it is hoped he will remain on the commission as the School Board appointee.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH MASTER PLAN**

Proposals were solicited for the services needed to establish and support the backbone organization from eight entities; three are being evaluated. The services of Jonathan Leonberger have been acquired for data management support, including coordinating share point development, devising a spreadsheet that can be manipulated, and developing a data base that will enable a search of action steps by key words. There will be a demonstration at the next CYFCC meeting.

Commissioners reviewed a draft letter to the Mayor, City Council and School Board that is an update on the status of the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan. It listed accomplishments related to early childhood as well as older children and youth.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Campbell announced the pending release of the ACPS Capital Improvement Plan and the next meeting of the Redistricting Review Committee. He also announced that Track & Field stars Noah and Josephus Lyles had signed with the University of Florida. Julie Crawford announced the Health Fair that will take place at Hammond Middle School.

A nonprofit whose mission is combatting childhood obesity will host a Meet & Greet at 6 p.m. on December 9. The event will take place at 1504 King Street.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.