

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – OCTOBER 8, 2014
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chanee Bigelow	Rose Dawson	Gwen Mullen
Gisselle Brown	Kate Garvey	Jeffrey Murphy
Councilman John Chapman	J. Glenn Hopkins	Sonia Price
William Chesley	Stacey Joyner	Joyce Rawlings
Andria Cook	Tammy Mann	Eric Williams

Excused Absent

Bill Campbell	Mike Mackey	Margaret Walsh
Rosario Casiano	Gerald Mann	Marc Williams
Councilman Timothy Lovain	Sean McEneaney	

Unexcused Absent

Hyun Choi	Nelson Majano	
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Staff

Jacqueline Coachman	Barbara Farrington	Shanna Samson
Carol Farrell	Ron Frazier	Deborah Warren

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Due to the passing of the father of Chair Sean McEneaney, the meeting was chaired by Chair Elect Kate Garvey.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

Gwen Mullen made the motion to approve the meeting notes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Eric Williams and approved unanimously.

UPDATE ON 2014 STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOL) FOR ALEXANDRIA

Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), began the briefing by stating the State has increased standards without providing the needed support. Teachers are asking what the standards are and how they met them. While Virginia does not aggregate data by subgroups, ACPS has done so to better support teachers.

Glenn Hopkins asked if the one year Jefferson-Houston was accredited was an aberration. Mr. Page gave credit to initiatives put into place by former Jefferson-Houston Principal Kim Graves – initiatives that were not sustained. Ms. Mullen mentioned the Washington Post article regarding the new Jefferson-Houston Principal, Christopher Phillips. Joyce Rawlings deemed staff turnover a significant obstacle to the accreditation of Jefferson-Houston. The concern of Councilman Chapman was the sharing of data with afterschool programs, and communication with providers like Campagna Kids. Ms. Mullen noted the coordinators of Book Buddies have

access to data from the PALS tests for students whose parents have signed consent forms authorizing release of that data, and devise curriculum based on such data.

Tammy Mann advised there are teaching methods that must accompany teaching for a 21st century knowledge base, but there seems to be a gap. Teaching methods must acknowledge that all kids do not learn the same way. It was the opinion of Stacey Joyner that the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) will increase alignment of youth services. Councilman Chapman asked if community partners can come into schools to discuss curriculum, and if their programs are set up to align with the curriculum. Ms. Mann assured him this was the case.

Ms. Rawlings asked if parents are being provided with the tools needed to support the education of their children. Mr. Hopkins shared the experiences of Hopkins House, which hosted four presentations for parents as to how they can support the education of their children. The parents appreciated the presentation, but found the information overwhelming. The information would have been more helpful to them if placed into context. Mr. Hopkins asked if CYFCC should recommend putting consumable data in the hands of parents. Parents care about their individual child and the skills that need improvement. Mr. Page stated discreet skills are the focus of the new report card.

Mr. Page noted 43% of graduating seniors passed at least one Advanced Placement course. Mr. Hopkins asked how that compared with similar size districts. Per Mr. Page, an updated version of the school-level peer compatibility report is expected this fall. The report compares districts with like demographics and resources. He is also working with Ms. Joyner to compile and assess data regarding kindergarten readiness. Mr. Hopkins recommended the assessment be expanded to enable a comparative analysis of children with preschool and those without. He also stressed the importance of comparing ACPS per capita expenditures with what is realized in return. Mr. Hopkins advised that any pockets of preschoolers who are not doing well be identified.

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Chair Elect Garvey stated the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan will be a standing CYFCC agenda item. She briefed commissioners on the special meeting of the City and Schools Staff Group (CSSG) on September 19, which was devoted to the development of the implementation plan. CSSG members agreed to the following factors in prioritizing action steps: feasible/doable, number of persons impacted, breaking new ground, high profile, longitudinal impact, and movement. Staff will convene a meeting to identify a data system to track the progress of CYMP implementation. Chair Elect Garvey mentioned the sharing of data by the school system and human services department in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Williams observed that programs are often assessed without the input of youth. Chair Elect Garvey encouraged recommendations for incorporating youth input on a regular basis. Mr. Williams discussed the value of bringing youth together just to talk. That was the main reason for the Alexandria Youth Council, according to Councilman Chapman, and such an entity is what is needed to engage youth groups in the implementation process. Chair Elect Garvey said a component of programming is incorporating input, and Mr. Williams identified social media as a valuable tool in that regard.

REPORT ON CURRENT COLLABORATION EFFORTS BETWEEN CHILD AND FAMILY ENTITIES IN THE CITY

Chair-Elect Garvey recommended sharing effective collaborations in Alexandria be a future component of CYFCC meetings.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS/PRIORITIES

Chair Elect Garvey asked if ten minutes should be set aside at each meeting to assess the productivity of CYFCC and its initiatives. Councilman Chapman said the community should be included as well. Another possibility is doing so on an as needed basis as opposed to every meeting. Time will be set aside at the next CYFCC meeting to explore the functioning of its committees. It was the advice of Councilman Chapman that the four officials who are CYFCC members be on the same page since budget recommendations will have to be defended. The City and Schools Staff Group is not plugged into nonprofits, stated Ms. Mullen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rose Dawson and Andria Cook, co-chairs of the Outreach and Membership Committee presented the committee report. Six CYFCC seats are expiring and there were three resignations in September. Mr. Hopkins asked about the debriefing of the CYFCC members who resigned. Chair Elect Garvey said plans are underway, and two key questions will be why the commissioners felt it necessary to leave, and what kinds of pressures were at play. There was some discussion of a survey of all CYFCC members to determine what they find satisfying and what can be done to ensure a meaningful experience.

The chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, Ms. Mann, discussed the budget presentation by Nelsie Birch, Director of Office of Management and Budget, that is scheduled for the November CYFCC meeting. At its meeting of September 16, the committee established its meeting schedule for the next year and identified the information needed to inform the development of budget priorities: trend data for the past three years, and the implementation priorities for the Children and Youth Master Plan.

Mr. Hopkins, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, applauded the decision of Giselle Brown to serve as Vice Chair. Accomplishments of the committee include the completion of a draft of the 2015 Legislative Support Agenda and completion of the 2014-2015 Committee Work Plan. Upon a motion by Mr. Hopkins and a second by Ms. Cook, the Legislative Support Agenda was endorsed unanimously. Mr. Williams abstained.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reception honoring the chairs and members of City Council-appointed social and human services boards and commissions is scheduled for 6 p.m. on October 30 at the DCHS Multipurpose Conference Room (2525 Mount Vernon Avenue).

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.