

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – OCTOBER 14, 2015
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Gisselle Brown
William Campbell
William Chesley
Rose Dawson
Kate Garvey
J. Glenn Hopkins

Stacey Joyner
Mike Mackey
Gwen Mullen
Brian Orrenamaa
Sonia Price

Joyce Rawlings
Anthony R. Smith
Kendallee Walker
Eric Williams
Marc Williams

Excused Absent

Councilman John Chapman
Councilman Tim Lovain

Gerald Mann
Tammy Mann

Jeffrey Murphy
Margaret Walsh

Unexcused Absent

Gwendolyn Lewis

Sean McEneaney

Carlos Suber

Staff

Jacqueline Coachman
Carol Farrell

Barbara Farrington
Ron Frazier

Shanna Samson
Deborah Warren

Officials

Julie Crawford

Guests

Allen Lomax

WELCOME

In the absence of Chair Tammy Mann, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Eric Williams.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT SEPTEMBER MINUTES

At its last meeting, Implementation & Monitoring Committee agreed its name would be changed to "Implementation Monitoring". Gwen Mullen requested the minutes reflect the change. On a motion from Mike Mackey and a second by Kate Garvey, the minutes were approved as amended.

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FOR FY 16

John Porter, President and CEO of ACT for Alexandria, began his presentation on the 2015 ACHSO Needs Assessment with a history of the nonprofit coalition. Act for Alexandria partnered with the City to establish the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO) in 2006. Its first needs assessment was published in 2008, followed by a report on the impact of Alexandria's nonprofit organizations in 2014. The needs assessment conducted in 2015, *Meeting Needs Today: A Needs Assessment of the Alexandria Human Services System*, identified five key issues:

- Development of more affordable housing
- Early intervention for physical and behavioral health and developmental issues for youth
- Bridging the information gap for immigrant non-English speakers, and most specifically immigrants who also cannot read or write in their native language
- Bridging the eligibility gap between subsidy levels (Medicaid, child care, etc.) and income needed to afford the market costs of services; and
- Enhancing nonprofit advocacy – particularly at the local and state levels.

ACHSO has formed subcommittees to pursue these issues and is seeking more collaboration. Mr. Porter noted that affordable housing is an issue not just for low income households, but the workforce in general. The City's affordable housing stock has decreased by 50% during the past ten years. Joyce Rawlings asked how affordable housing is defined and by whom. Ms. Garvey stated housing for those individuals who are at 50% of AMI (Area Median Income) is what people generally talking about when they refer to affordable housing. A greater focus is needed on those who are at 30% of AMI.

Jacqueline Coachman presented the findings of Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) forums conducted in May 2013 to obtain youth input. Recommendations of the two hundred youth who participated in nine forums included augmenting publicity about out-of-school time opportunities and seats on boards and commissions designated for youth, assisting youth who wish to take advantage of these opportunities with transportation, and affording youth of diverse cultures the opportunity to socialize after school.

Kendalee Walker, Chair of the Research Committee, provided an overview of efforts to augment youth input on the CYMP via partnerships with youth organizations to conduct youth forums. Those organizations include the Student Government Associations (SGA) at T.C. Williams and Minnie Howard, T.C.'s Leadership Class, and the Superintendent's Student Leadership Council. She also met with an administrator of the T. C. Williams International Academy, designed for high school students who immigrated to the United States less than four years ago and are learning English. One of the topics explored by Ms. Walker was organizational priorities for the current school year. A priority of both the T.C. Williams SGA and the Superintendent's Student Leadership Council is more engagement with the International Academy. Ms. Coachman noted the International Academy is the perfect vehicle for CYFCC efforts to promote cultural diversity. Ms. Mullen asked if there is a way to identify youth who are not engaged in clubs, but it was determined this could be challenging since many students participate in afterschool activities not affiliated with ACPS. Vice-Chair Williams recommended using social media tools like Google Forum, Skype, Facebook and Twitter to gather youth input and assure ongoing communication. One strategy proffered by Ms. Walker was to gather student leaders during the school day to inform them of CYMP implementation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anthony Smith has agreed to serve as Chair of Budget & Finance. Sonia Price announced that the next meeting has been scheduled for a date in November. One agenda item will be the fiscal impact of the CYMP.

As Chair of the Advocacy and Policy Committee, Glenn Hopkins discussed its progress with regard to the 2015-2016 legislative support agenda and the Legislative Support Agenda Final Report (both of which will be submitted to the full commission at the November meeting) as well as the committee work plan. Mr. Hopkins also discussed the committee's position on pending federal legislation. Other activities of the committee include selecting Gisselle Benjamin as Vice-Chair, and agreeing to meet on the third Thursday of the month.

Mr. Hopkins indicated the need for a process that allows CYFCC to respond quickly to developments regarding the legislative agenda. He recommended that the Advocacy & Policy Committee be authorized to respond on behalf of the full Commission if CYFCC has already approved the legislative agenda. Vice-Chair Williams invited discussion of the recommendation. The position of Ms. Garvey was that requests for advocacy come up quickly and such a process would be helpful. Rose Dawson suggested compiling the legislative agenda well in advance. Another recommendation was obtaining final approval from the CYFCC Chair rather than the full Commission. The matter will be revisited after input from CYFCC Chair Tammy Mann.

Ms. Walker accepted the invitation to serve as Chair of the Research & Data Committee. Her report on plans to obtain youth input on implementation was the report of the Research & Data Committee.

Co-Chair Gwen Mullen announced a meeting of the Implementation Monitoring Committee will be scheduled after more information is provided on the backbone structure. Ms. Garvey is involved in discussions regarding the backbone organization.

Rose Dawson, Chair of Outreach & Membership, announced there are four CYFCC vacancies – three high school representatives and one young adult. The appointments of Sean McEneaney, Joyce Rawlings and Ms. Dawson expire December 11.

Vice-Chair Williams provided the report of the Executive Committee. The focus of its next meeting will be determining the process for the identification of implementation priorities.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MASTER PLAN

Ms. Garvey provided an update on the Early Care & Education Workgroup. Its draft strategic plan is almost finalized. The work group is advocating for a single backbone structure for the overall master plan. The Bruhn-Morris Foundation and ACT for Alexandria are interested in investing in a project manager, and the City has funds that could be allocated to funding a staff person or a consultant. The ACPS Strategic Plan and ACPS leadership are key to ensuring work continues and progress is communicated.

William Chesley updated the Commission on the activities of the Out-of-School Time Program Work Group. The work group was convened to develop a framework for K-12 out-of-school time opportunities that supports CYMP goals and strategies. The group is comprised of providers reaching the largest number of school-age youth. Participation will be expanded at each stage of the implementation process. Phase 1 entails developing a common definition for out-of-school time; determining gaps in service, accessibility and affordability of Alexandria programs by GIS mapping; and documenting space and capacity issues associated with the current location of programs. Ms. Garvey and Jim Spengler made a presentation regarding efforts of the work group

and the connection to CYMP implementation to the City Council/School Board Subcommittee. She noted out-of-school time has been studied three times in the past. As a temporary solution, the services of a consultant may be acquired to develop the work plan. In addition, there is a need to provide a status report in November.

Ms. Rawlings expressed concern that the City's fiscal resources are shrinking as CYFCC attempts to move the plan forward. She also addressed the impact of increases in recreation fees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Campbell announced the Kick-off of the ACPS Strategic Plan will be November 6 from 5-8 at Jefferson-Houston. It will be a family event with multiple activities. He also stated the 35 members of the ACPS Redistricting Committee have been identified, and the next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on October 22 at T.C. Williams.

Ms. Mullens announced the October 26 meeting of Agenda Alexandria will be devoted to redistricting. Mike Mackey announced the next Stakeholders meeting of the Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying is October 27.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.