

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MARCH 14, 2018
CITY HALL, ROOM 3008

ATTENDANCE

Robin Blair	Melissa Little	Stephen Parker
Ronnie Campbell	Jamica Littles	Isra Shuster
Julie Crawford	Mike Mackey	Eric Williams
Rose Dawson	Tammy Mann	Malka Zeefe
Laura Durham	Gwen Mullen	
Karen Graf	Edward O-Keefe	
Kate Garvey	Brian Orenmaa	
Kurt Huffman	Kelley Organek	

Excused Absent

Councilman Will Bailey	Charlotte Loesch	Lydia Helgeson
Councilman John Chapman	Michelle Smith-Howard	

Unexcused Absent

Joyce Rawlings

Staff

Noraine Buttar	
Chelsea Eickert	Robin Crawley

Guests

Jerry Lowell

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT FEBRUARY MINUTES

Corrections were made to the minutes, and it was suggested that in the future, minutes should not include direct quotes, and full names (first and last) should always be used to maintain consistency.

OLD BUSINESS: UPDATE ON COMMISSION “SNAPSHOT”

Questions were addressed, changes to the language were recommended, and final revisions were made to the Snapshot’s Appendices.

OLD BUSINESS: CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN AWARDS

The Commission reviewed and revised the text and graphics on the flyer for the Champions of Children Awards. The plan is to post the flyer on March 18th after Eric Williams makes arrangements with Joseph Davis, DCHS Communications. Once it’s ready, Noraine Buttar will send out to appropriate. People will have two full months to make their nominations and have them scored in time for the June meeting. The Advocacy Committee agreed to pursue sponsorships from private businesses.

NEW BUSINESS: BUDGET LETTER

Last month the Budget and Finance committee met and reviewed former budget letters. This year's letter highlighted budget priorities, was data-driven, and made connections to the City's Strategic Plan and the Children and Youth Master Plan. After the letter was drafted and sent to the Executive Committee, it was presented by Jamica Littles, on behalf of the CYFCC at a Public Hearing on March 12th at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS: PRESENTATIONS ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND SUPPORTS

Last month, the Executive Committee began a discussion on the selection of the Commission's priorities from year to year and what the methods should be for selecting those priorities. How can emergent issues and the CYMP both be managed from year to year? The discussion led to school safety and the possibility of working on some kind of school and safety deliverable (i.e. handbook or website).

Dr. Julie Crawford, Jerry Lowell, and Noraine Buttar presented about the student support system. Together they provided a baseline understanding of all of the services available to students. For more details, a copy of the presenters' slides was sent electronically to the Commission.

Dr. Julie Crawford gave a brief overview of the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan and the Student Services Department before explaining the Student Support Teams (SST) and what they do for a student who is experiencing a crisis. Every student has an SST, which has four main components provided by Qualified School Professionals (QSP): a School Counseling Program (every student has a counselor to ensure that every student has a trusting adult to go to seek help), School Psychological Services, School Social Work Services, and School Health Services, in which students can be seen by a registered nurse and certified nursing assistants. Additional Services include: Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention (this year, ACPS hired a position who works with families and students to do assessments and provide direct support and services), Truancy Outreach, Residency Verification, Alternative Programs, and Equity and Cultural Competence.

In addition to these services, Dr. Julie Crawford emphasized the importance of protective factors, and went on to describe the PBIS Tiers of Support, Restorative Practices, and Mental Health Tiered Supports. She also wanted to make everyone aware of the Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying, as well as the ACPS Tip Line, which anyone can use to anonymously report a problem. Finally, if a student goes through the process and still doesn't feel safe, they work with an ACPS Safety Team.

Next, Jerry Lowell presented on the services that the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) provides for youth with behavioral health challenges. There are two teams who work with children with significant mental health needs – the Community Wraparound Team and the Youth and Family Outpatient Team. Their main partner is ACPS, where there are staff working at various schools. They see kids that do not have the protective factors that Dr. Julie Crawford referenced, and kids with adverse experiences, which increase the risk for mental health and general health issues. The Community Wraparound Team works with the highest risk kids who have multi-system involvement, putting together a plan for the family to get what they need. He went over the many different services that the team provides, including something new that the team is implementing – IACCT, a Medicaid service where any parent can call and

request residential care services. By implementing IACCT, the team ensures that kids in Alexandria get a more thorough assessment and treatment recommendations, as well as follow through from the team.

Noraine Buttar gave an overview of the Youth Development Team's goals, programs, and initiatives in the schools. The Team's goal is to build developmental assets. Amongst all of the various evidence-based programming focused on prevention, she also highlighted two Suicide Prevention trainings - Youth Mental Health First Aid, a workshop which targets anyone who comes across youth who are in crisis – and Kognito, a web-based mental health training. Everyone should know what to do if a youth is in crisis.

After the presentation, the floor was open to questions and comments. It was suggested that a similar presentation be given at a joint City-Schools meeting to demonstrate about how the City and ACPS work together to provide Mental Health Counseling and Services to students. To continue the discussion on student resources, Dr. Julie Crawford and Kate Garvey will create a list of speakers, and other Commissioners are welcome to bring their suggestions to the discussion next month. A suggestion was made to present a Case Study that would walk the Commission through a scenario where a Safety Plan had to be implemented. The Case Study could highlight where there are there gaps and how the CYFCC can help to fill those gaps. The Executive Committee will continue to talk about priorities during their next meeting. Members should email Noraine Buttar with ideas of resources, people, programs, and additions to next month's speaker panel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Budget and Finance:** See "New Business"
- **Advocacy:** The next Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 28th at 6:30PM, 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue in the Cyphers Room. This will be an organizational meeting, discussing what they can do at the state level. They also wanted to recognize Dr. Tammy Mann for testifying before a congressional committee.
- **Outreach and Membership:** The Committee welcomed new members and announced that one more vacancy needs to be filled to be a full commission.
- **Research and Data:** The committee met the hour before, and is developing recommendations for a common system of measurement [a CYMP action step].
- **Implementation Monitoring:** The committee is developing a solid understanding of what CYMP progress is being made. They are working with community partners to make sure that we are on the same page and deciding on deliverables to make sure it is actually being implemented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Orrenmaa shared what happened at George Mason Elementary -two students organized a walk-out with their parents. They set parameters and remained silent and respectful of others the entire time. They walked out with signs promoting school safety, and there was great support from the Police Department. The future is in good hands.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.