

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MAY 9, 2018
CITY HALL, ROOM 3008**

ATTENDANCE

Ronnie Campbell
Laura Durham
Kate Garvey
J. Glenn Hopkins
Kurt Huffman
Melissa Little

Jamica Littles
Charlotte Loesch
Mike Mackey
Tammy Mann
Gwen Mullen
Brian Orenmaa

Kelly Organek
Stephen Parker
Eric Williams
Malka Zeefe

Staff

Noraine Buttar
Robin Crawley

Chelsea Eickert

Stacey Hardy-Chandler

REVIEW & APPROVAL

Meeting minutes from March and April were reviewed and approved with minor corrections to attendance and spelling of names.

OLD BUSINESS - CHAMPION OF CHILDREN AWARDS UPDATE

Eric Williams urged everyone to submit nominations. Several emails have gone out to increase interest in the Champions of Children Awards. This year, the Award ceremony will be hosted by kids and a special guest speaker. The Champions of Children Awards will take place on June 13th at 7PM in the Vola Lawson Lobby at City Hall, replacing June's Commission meeting.

Before moving on to New Business, Malka Zeefe gave an update from the prior meeting. Also, she would like something to bring to the first commission meeting of the new term. Anyone interested in participating in the Advocacy Committee over the summer should inform Malka. In his research of templates for a resource guidebook, Stephen Parker discovered that there doesn't seem to be a product that outlines the structure of resources available to families in a community. Who can the Commission partner with to create such a resource?

NEW BUSINESS - PRESENTATION ON LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Sarah Taylor, the City's new Legislative Director, introduced herself to the Commission and explained why she is talking to boards and commissions throughout the city. In preparation for this coming session, she is putting items together for the legislative packet. She wants to start working on this stuff now by identifying advocates and the best people to work with to put together some items to advocate for. Now is the time to lay the foundation, figure out what works and what doesn't, and continue working on it during the next session.

To put together a legislative packet that has really smart, strategic actions and is fully formed as early as possible, Sarah Taylor is looking to Commissioners as subject matter experts and advocates, and to tell her what she doesn't know. Commissioners can help her come up with solutions that are very clear and actionable and can build coalitions around. "You know the issues, I know the process," she said. People in Alexandria are very eager to advocate, but may

not have the skills, so Sarah Taylor is willing to do a training on advocacy to help build skills and give people tools to be helpful advocates. She left her business cards and encouraged everyone to contact her.

Timeline:

- August 1st - First draft of proposals completed, but the schedule may get pushed back
- October - A second draft completed
- Mid-November - Public hearing
- Last week of November - Final package completed
- January - Session starts

Commissioners interested in advocacy and diggings into policies and legislative affairs at the local and state levels over the summer were also encouraged to email Stephen Parker, the Chair of the Commission's Advocacy and Policy Committee. He has identified several policies that relate to each of the Goals in the Children and Youth Master Plan, but needs help narrowing down legislative priorities, which the Commission will vote on in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS - PRESENTATION ON ALICE

Brian Orenmaa gave a presentation on ALICE (Alert, Lockdown/Leave, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), which is a training that prepares individuals, schools, and organizations on how to proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter. This training has become the more accepted response, versus the traditional "lockdown" approach. ACPS staff is trained for three hours in ALICE. Their goal is to have everyone trained by the first quarter of next year. Students are also trained, which varies by their level, over the course of four weeks.

ACPS is the first district in the region to do this, and most parents are completely on board. Hopefully, ACPS will be a good example to other school districts to follow in the same direction. ACPS and the Family and Community Engagement Center are currently identifying evacuation sites to put an MOA in place and be prepared for next school year.

ELECTIONS

Since Malka Zeefe stepped in to finish Michael Suppa's term this year, she will be incoming Chair for the Commission next year. Jamica Littles was elected to be Chair-Elect.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Malka Zeefe announced that she will be collecting committee reports over the summer, to assist her in preparing a draft of the Annual Report which will be presented at the first commission meeting in the fall.

- **BUDGET & FINANCE** – Chelsea Eickert, the Children and Youth Master Plan Coordinator, asked each committee to review action steps from the Plan that relates to their committee and discuss progress made, feasibility, and next steps. After the Budget Committee reviewed their action step - 5.4.1, which recommends creating a section of the City and ACPS budgets that clearly enumerates all funding streams and expenses that support services for children, youth, and families - they had a couple of concerns. Will the City be amenable to restructuring its budget to address this request? How can ACPS parcel out a section when every line item in their budget impacts children and families? Is

the end goal to have a separate children, youth, and families budget? The discussion that followed concluded that the goal of this action step is to organize the ACPS budget as well as the City budget so that there's a specific line item to show all monies going toward children and youth. The mindset of having a separate budget was to be able to communicate the total sum of money going toward children, youth, and families and to track it over the years. Going forward, the committee will focus on this action step and decide how to break things down into actionable steps.

- **ADVOCACY** – Encouraged Commissioners to attend their advocacy summer school!
- **OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP** – Led elections and reviewed and evaluated assigned action steps.
- **RESEARCH & DATA** –The Committee plans on meeting with Chelsea and Jonathan to draft up their report. They also reviewed and evaluated their assigned action steps.
- **IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING** – The Committee has been meeting with various work groups or agencies to help them form work groups and a common agenda. The Committee will be pulling all info together to provide an update and next steps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mike Mackey announced the date and play for the next Beat the Odds Fundraiser – “Dracula” on October 12th at the Little Theater. This annual fundraiser raises money for college scholarships for kids who have had to overcome obstacles.
- May 8th was National Teacher Appreciation Day
- As a recap, everyone was encouraged to:
 - spread the word that nominations for Champions of the Children are being accepted
 - help brainstorm a health and safety resource product/deliverable
 - consider helping the Advocacy Committee over the summer

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.