

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2018**  
**CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Ameena Ashraf	Lydia Helgeson	Stephen Parker
Councilman Will Bailey	Kurt Huffman	Isra Schuster
Ronnie Campbell	Jamica Littles	Michelle Smith-Howard
Councilman John Chapman	Mike Mackey	Eric Williams
Rose Dawson	Tammy Mann	Malka Zeefe
Laura Durham	Gwen Mullen	
Kate Garvey	Brian Orrenmaa	

**Excused Absent**

Glen Hopkins	Julie Crawford	Charlotte Loesch	Karen Graf
Michael Suppa	Melissa Little	Robin Blair	

**Unexcused Absent**

Edward O’Keefe	Joyce Rawlings
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**Staff**

Noraine Buttar	
Chelsea Eickert	Robin Crawley

**Guests**

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT DECEMBER MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the meeting notes from the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved with no changes.

**OLD BUSINESS: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COMMISSION “SNAPSHOT”**

The appendices were removed because the Executive Committee has not approved them yet. Once the Executive Committee approves the appendices, it will be brought back to the full Commission to review and approve.

A discussion developed around one of the functions and duties of a CYFCC Commissioner, “Remember whom you represent, and ensure your activities on the CYFCC reflect that.” Dr. Tammy Mann found it interesting because she thought that being a commissioner was not so much about representing people, but more about representing ideas, needs, issues, and knowledge. Whom you represent takes away from content. For example, Dr. Mann does not come to Commission meetings representing the nonprofit, the Campagna Center. She’s here to contemplate issues. She agreed with Kate Garvey’s sentiments that Commissioners are here to

share their unique perspective and expertise, which is valuable and relevant. Perspective feels less about “me,” and more about the issues that we’re focused on.

Malka Zeefe noted that the Snapshot had been reduced from the original format, and that Dr. Mann’s understanding reflects the original intent - Commissioners are here based on a specific perspective. Mike Mackey, who drafted that section of the Snapshot, agreed that the substance included in the current version of the Snapshot represents a denser version. His point, speaking from experience with other groups, was to be aware of those you serve as you sit on this board. Brian Orrenmaa noticed that the other bullets cover what members were trying to say; so he suggested that we could do without that one bullet point. Everyone agreed to strike that bullet point regarding of representation of a perspective.

Decision: The motion to adopt the snapshot was approved and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS: CHAMPIONS OF THE CHILDREN**

Discussion: Eric Williams shared the criteria that they voted on last year; he asked if anyone had any feedback on criteria. Kate Garvey wanted to reiterate that these criteria brought out such a wonderful, deserving group of people; she’d like to keep them. Gwen Mullen raised a concern - the people who were nominated, but not awarded, didn’t attend the event. She wondered if there was something to be done about it. The consensus was that it wasn’t a shared concern, and that those nominated last year are still eligible for this year.

Decision: The motion to approve the criteria was approved and carried.

Before moving on to Committee reports, Malka wanted to make everyone aware that soon, she would like the Commission to focus on setting priorities and action items. At the next commission meeting, there could be a go-around for Commissioners to contribute topics. They’ll discuss it as a group and pick one to three tangible priorities. Rose Dawson said that it might look a little odd if the Commission selected priorities that did not tie into the budget letter that was sent to the City Manager. Malka affirmed that the Commission has identified priorities in the past, and it was always for different purposes. For this purpose, she would like the Commission to pinpoint the things that we should do as a commission if we want to make a difference. Should the Commissions priorities align with the budget letter, address former priorities, such as equity and housing and/or with the CYMP priorities? The goal is to set priorities for the Commission so that the Commissioners know what they’re going to be working on every year.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Outreach & Membership** - The Committee introduced the two newest members, and encourages all new members to get involved in a subcommittee. Ultimately, youth are encouraged to serve as a co-chair to learn, and feel comfortable leading. The Commission should ensure that the voice of the youth is heard because they’re the real reason we’re all

here. Edward O'Keefe was reappointed. Noraine is currently working out a structure with the City Clerk's office referencing how their committee is notified of openings. Their membership records are now current, and the Commission has one opening. Whenever your term is close to expiring, please renew your application as soon as possible, otherwise the City Clerk will post online that there is a vacancy and people can apply for your position.

Isra Schuster is a sophomore at TC, and has been an ACPS student since kindergarten. Kurt Huffman is the director of School, Business and Community Partnerships at ACPS. He has been in education all of his professional life, including being a teacher and principal in Ohio, and leading a Nonprofit Science Center. He moved to Alexandria and has been in his current position at ACPS for a year and a half, and he comes to the Commission to continue the work that he is really passionate about, which is serving youth and his community.

- **Implementation Monitoring Committee** - The Committee met on a Saturday to select a monitoring and evaluation template and discussed next steps. Now Chelsea, the CYMP Coordinator, will work with each of the Initiatives work groups to identify the strategies and actions steps that are feasible to implement this next year, their deliverables, what they will measure, and what success looks like. Chelsea will bring that information back to the Implementation Monitoring Committee so that they know what they will be monitoring. Until the work groups decide on what's feasible and possible deliverables, the Committee decided that there is no reason for them to meet. They only have one more meeting to convene in order to meet their required quota.
- **Advocacy** – Stephen, the new chair, will call a meeting. The committee is looking for members, developing the committee, setting priorities, and thinking about how to be predictive with state legislation conversations. Councilman John Chapman added that the City Council also wants to pull the community together to do a lobby day to talk about the issues that we're dealing with here in Alexandria. He wants to encourage people to carpool and make an event out of lobbying.
- **Finance and Grants** - The Committee has talked about their priorities and next steps. They're meeting next Wednesday to flesh out their letter that's due March 12<sup>th</sup> when there's going to be a public hearing.
- **Research & Data** - Met today to critically examine outcome indicators and goals, which there are five of. Each goal has indicators, and the Committee is trying to figure out what's the outcome for each of these strategies? The next Committee meeting is at 6PM on March 14<sup>th</sup> in City Hall and anyone is welcome to join.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kate Garvey announced that DCHS has selected Stacey Hardy-Chandler as the new Director of the Center for Children and Families. She thanked those who assisted in the selection process. Stacey has over 26 years of experience in supporting child wellbeing. Stacey comes to DCHS from Fairfax County's Department of Family Services where she served as Director of the Professional and Organization Development unit. Stacey is a licensed clinical social worker and has a Law Degree, PhD, Clinical Psychology and Master Degrees in Psychology and Social Work. She also developed DCHS's Common Ground which focuses on civility in the department. She starts on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Malka and Ronnie Campbell announced the final Public Hearing meeting for the consideration of naming of west end elementary school Thursday night. Come with suggestions and endorsements.

Mike Mackey thanked everyone who came out to support the Beat the Odds event, which raised over \$1,000.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.