

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – JANUARY 10, 2018
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Robin Blair
Ronnie Campbell
Julie Crawford
Rose Dawson
Laura Durham
Kate Garvey
Karen Graf

Lydia Helgeson
Melissa Little
Jamica Littles
Charlotte Loesch
Mike Mackey
Tammy Mann
Gwen Mullen

Brian Orrenmaa
Stephen Parker
Michelle Smith-Howard
Eric Williams
Malka Zeefe

Excused Absent

Councilman John Chapman
Councilman Will Bailey
Glen Hopkins
Michael Suppa

Unexcused Absent

Edward O’Keefe Joyce Rawlings

Staff

Noraine Buttar
Chelsea Eickert

Barbara Farrington
Jonathan Leonberger

Robin Crawley

Guests

Kevin Brown

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT DECEMBER MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the meeting notes from the December 13 meeting. Kate Garvey motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Mike Mackey, with no further discussion. At the end of the meeting, Ronnie Campbell voiced a correction to the minutes, as she was at the meeting but listed as absent. The correction was noted.

OLD BUSINESS: UPDATE ON COMMISSION “SNAPSHOT”

Malka stated that the snapshot was sent back to the Executive Committee for further review and generated a great discussion. A new draft will be presented again on January 25th at the next Executive Committee meeting for further review and approval, to bring to full Commission for approval on February 14th.

NEW BUSINESS: UPDATE ON FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (CYMP)

Chelsea Eickert updated the Commission on a new framework for action. Chelsea met with CSSG, agreed on priority areas/initiatives, and restructured the framework, as an updated framework is needed to coordinate implementation, and for her to drive the work forward via day

to day administration as backbone support for the plan. She began with an analysis of the implementation process and recommended steps to strengthen the process during the year ahead. She has reviewed the data to identify priority areas, and wants to use it to enhance the Data Profile; reorganize it; decide upon appropriate indicators; add missing indicators; and disaggregate data to be more equitable – an example being breaking down abuse and neglect to include cases other than allegations. A key question asked of CSSG was to figure out who could lead these initiatives.

Chelsea is working with the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) to develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. To know what the Committee will monitor, Chelsea will conduct a feasibility study by convening stakeholders for each initiative, ask them questions to determine if specific work is feasible, and to determine capacity to implement CYMP strategies. Each Initiative Owner will determine if the strategies are still relevant, and would eventually develop a Common Agenda for their Initiative. An ideal process is collaborating over each initiative, determining what all stakeholders have in common, clearly defining the problem and determining how each stakeholder can work together on solutions. Through this, the development of SMART objectives set on a timeline is recommended, to break implementation into manageable pieces. In monitoring implementation, she recommends key performance indicators and benchmarks be developed, to make partners aware of what the CYMP is measuring and what success looks like. She wants to develop a community engagement plan to create opportunities to get the community and youth more involved in planning and decision making, as well as generally being informed.

Under the new framework, each initiative is assigned a leader, ideally being a collaborative body that already exists. They will collectively work on a feasibility study, which will include how to evaluate strategies and action steps and determining if they are valuable. Chelsea will be the connective tissue of the collaborative bodies, providing continuity and identifying what they all have in common, as many strategies overlap. CSSG and CYFCC are both responsible for monitoring progress. She presented the initiatives and potential initiative owners, asking the Commission if any group was missing. She also asked how she can support Alexandria City Public School's (ACPS) strategic plan. Potential initiative owners will serve as backbones to the communities they serve, develop the scope of work, review and evaluate strategies, and drive the implementation of the strategies.

Chelsea presented an example of an initiative and the relevant strategies from the CYMP. She then posed the feasibility questions that would be asked of the owners of that initiative. Chelsea asked Commission members to look for initiative owners that are missing. The presentation ended with a list of things that will be different a year from now if the recommended steps to strengthen the implementation process were accomplished. Such as stronger coordination, collaboration, and alignment; a greater focus on data and equity; set SMART Objectives and a way to monitor progress, and a common understanding of what needs to be done and who's accountable for what.

NEW BUSINESS: UPDATE ON DCHS FACILITIES

Kate Garvey explained that DCHS is looking for a single location, and that this is a high priority that has not been feasible until recently. DCHS participated in the City's strategic facilities

planning process, expressing concerns, interests, and the like. There are some locations that will accommodate the Department, co-located with the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) and Neighborhood Health, with the possibility of bringing in non-profits. She explained DCHS staff are currently in 8 buildings, with 650 staff – there are significant needs, as they serve 25,000 people a year, with the biggest client hubs concentrated in a few areas – e.g., Arlandria, North Old Town, and the West End. The goal is to move July 2019, as many DCHS leases end at that time. They want Commission input on partners.

NEW BUSINESS: CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN AWARDS

Eric Williams stated there is a copy of the previous Champions of Children flyer and criteria in the materials packet, and that questions and concerns will be addressed at the next Champions Committee meeting, including design changes to the flyer. Kate Garvey mentioned how the ceremony was wonderful in highlighting unsung heroes, and wants to continue that process. Eric Williams will reach out to same groups, and wants to add more voices, so the unsung heroes can be reached at a “trench level”. At the next meeting, the Commission will vote on criteria moving forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Budget and Finance-** The budget letter was submitted.
- **Advocacy** Malka Zeefe explained that there is a new legislative director, but she is busy with General Session. They will figure out next steps for the legislative agenda at the next meeting, and discuss priorities that could be in such an agenda and the Commission’s focus.
- **Outreach and Membership** introduced new City Council appointee member, Stephen Parker. His day job is in education, and he stated how he grew up in single parent, lower income, household, which is why he is involved in the Commission today – to give back to the systems that supported him. Brian Orrenmaa, Tammy Mann, and Mike Mackey were all reinstated.
- **Research and Data** discussed how they collected and distributed outcome data on the goals of the CYMP for further review. Laura Durham is taking health, Gwen Mullen is taking Goal 2, and Kevin Brown is taking cultural competency.
- **Implementation Monitoring** stated that Chelsea already updated the Commission in her presentation. They are excited about next steps, and will have a working meeting on a Saturday next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Mackey announced the “Beat the Odds” Scholarship event through the Alexandria Bar Foundation – January 12, 6:30 p.m. showing of Anne of Green Gables at the Little Theatre. All are encouraged to attend. Noraine Buttar announced a Community Conversation About Opioids scheduled for February 28th at 7 p.m. at Minnie Howard School. All are encouraged to spread the word.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Mackey motioned to adjourn, and Ronnie Campell seconded. The meeting was adjourned