

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MAY 8, 2019
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Julie Crawford
Rose Dawson
Laura Durham
Amanda Hazelwood
J. Glenn Hopkins

Kurt Huffman
Jamica Littles
Mike Mackey
Tammy Mann
Kelly Organek

Maile Organek
Brian Orrenmaa
Stephen Parker
Dayanara Saget
Malka Zeefe

Excused Absent

Councilman Canek Acguirre
Councilwoman Amy Jackson
Isra Shuster
Jacinta Greene
Javan Owens
Heather Thornton

Kate Garvey
Michelle-Smith-Howard
Peter Kallin

Unexcused Absent

Ameena Ashraf
Bryana Head
Brent McKenzie

Staff

Stacey Hardy-Chandler
Noraine Buttar

WELCOME

Malka Zeefe, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT FEBRUARY MINUTES

March Minutes were reviewed and approved.

NEW BUSINESS - ELECTION

Kelly Organek was elected at the Chair-Elect. She will start serving as Chair in July 2020.

NEW BUSINESS – BREAKOUT INTO COMMITTEES

Each of the committees discussed their plan for the upcoming year.

Goal 1 Committee – will focus on continuing safety education. They will continue to explore funding opportunities, programs and initiatives that address and strengthen preschool, school and

community safety. Considerations may include a community safety fair or the development/enhancement of a community safety resource guide. The Committee will consider exploring community safety measurements and definitions of safety from a multi-cultural and cross-system perspective, requesting data reflective of the same, and identifying system gaps and opportunities for improvement.

Goal 2 Committee – will focus on how to build a pipeline of prepared students. They will consult with the Early Care and Education Workgroup to understand what’s already being done in this area, and how they can best support the work in this area.

Goal 3 Committee – will focus on better understanding the landscape of stakeholders that work in the area of youth empowerment. The initial focus will be on substance abuse, bullying and children’s mental health.

Goal 4 Committee – will focus on supporting ACPS Families and Community Engagement Centers. They will look at results from the various surveys and examine whether families feel engaged and empowered.

Goal 5 – will focus on supporting the alignment and coordination of three major plans – Children and Youth Master Plan, ACPS 2025 and the Community Health Improvement Plan. A task force was pulled together to ensure the plans are created as a coordinated and unified effort.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Macken announced:

The City of Alexandria will be the first jurisdiction in Virginia to participate in the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform’s Crossover Practices Model, which has been implemented with successful outcomes in 119 communities across the country. This model calls for a cross-collaborative of agencies working with youth and families and is meant to enhance those that “cross-over” between, specifically, child welfare and juvenile justice – but has far reaching impacts for other cross-system work. Multiple agencies and groups are working together on this project.

Between March 25 – 29, 2019, Alexandria participated in the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Center for Children’s Law & Policy Racial & Ethnic Disparities Program. 10 staff, including one Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Judge and leaders from the Northern VA Regional Detention Center, Department of Community & Human Services, Alexandria Police Department, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Alexandria City Public Schools, and the Court Service Unit/DJJ, attended. A team will continue the work forward, which includes the development of a capstone project

Julie Crawford announced that ACPS co-signed an amicus brief for the Gavin Grimm case supporting transgender rights.

Proposed Calendar Events

June 12 - Champions of Children Awards – 6:30 p.m., Vola Lawson Lobby

ADJOURNMENT (8:25 PM)