

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Laura Durham	Kurt Huffman	Kelley Organek
Kate Garvey	Councilwoman Amy Jackson	Stephen Parker
Jacinta Greene	Jamica M. Littles	Dianara Saget
Amanda Hazelwood	Mike Mackey	Christina Sherlock
J. Glenn Hopkins	Tammy Mann	Isra Shuster

Excused Absent

Councilman Canek Aguirre	Michelle Smith-Howard	Brian Orrenmaa
Julie Crawford	Heather Thornton	
Rose Dawson	Malka Zeefe	

Unexcused Absent

Peter Kalin
Brent McKenzie
Javan Owens
Stephen Parker

Guests

Allen Lomax

Staff

Stacey Hardy-Chandler
Robin Crawley
Chelsea Eickert
Noraine Buttar

WELCOME

Jamica Littles, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

Jamica shared her experience attending the Local Children’s Cabinet Network Summit with Noraine Buttar in July. She is excited about integrating what she learned into future Commission meetings. Moving forward, full Commission meetings will include time for members to meet within their subcommittees so that they don’t have to schedule more meetings outside full Commission meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Members of the Commission reviewed meeting dates for any scheduling conflicts. October 9th is Yom Kippur so that month's Commission meeting was moved to October 16th. April 8th is Spring Break for Alexandria City Public Schools, so that month's Commission meeting was moved to April 1st.

EMERGING ISSUE – STUDENT ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

Kelley Organek introduced an issue that concerns students at George Washington Middle School. Students there have researched mold in schools and are trying to get legislation passed so that money will be allocated to our schools to combat the mold. They have started an online petition. The Commission used the Decision Tree tool to guide the conversation.

Decision – Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission may be a potential partner for the students because they are thinking about encouraging City Council to do something about mold. ACPS Facilities may be trying to figure out the mold issue, so before any policy-related conversations happen, the students should be made aware. The students did not say what help from the Commission they would like so Kelley Organek will go back to the student group and ask what support, if any, they would like from the Commission. Amanda Hazelwood may be able to connect the student group with the Environmental Policy Commission.

EMERGING ISSUE – THE RISE IN YOUTH E-CIGARETTE USE

During this conversation, Glenn Hopkins asked about JUULs and what can be done to prevent Alexandria's youth from using. Allan Lomax, the Chair of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) was in attendance at the meeting and was able to share what SAPCA is currently doing on this matter and their recent accomplishments in helping to change the law which pushes the age limit to 21 to prevent access to e-cigarettes. Isra Shuster gave a powerful testimony, affirming that JUULs and vaping is a huge issue at TC Williams High School.

Decision: A motion was passed to align the CYFCC's advocacy efforts with actions happening throughout the City, including:

- emailing the Legislative Director, letting her know that the CYFCC is a partner that supports SAPCA's proposal;
- sending a letter to PTAs and Rec Centers, encouraging them to receive SAPCA's presentation which provides education about e-cigarettes and resources; and
- requesting a presentation be made to City Council and the School Board by the Commission and SAPCA.

NEW BUSINESS – ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Jamica Littles announced that the Commission did not submit any new legislative priorities.

NEW BUSINESS – PRESENTATION ABOUT CYMP 2020 AND 2025 PLANNING

Children and Youth Master Plan Coordinator, Chelsea Eickert, gave the Commission a presentation on CYMP milestones since 2011, the CYMP 2025 planning process and the CYFCC's role, and the direction the CYMP over the next five years. See power point slides for

more information. There was a discussion among the Commission around changing the name of the CYMP to reflect the current context and needs of the community.

Decision: The Commission decided that it would be best to wait until the CYMP 2025 is developed to see if changing the name is necessary.

Ask: Can Commissioners let Chelsea Eickert know if she can send someone to facilitate an engagement workshop with their staff or program participants? She will send a list of places that CYMP Work Groups have already done outreach to and/or are hoping to engage by the end of October.

NEW BUSINESS – CYFCC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE ALIGNMENT WITH CYMP

During her presentation, Chelsea Eickert explained that since the CYMP is a roadmap for the CYFCC, and since the CYFCC decided to align their committee structure with the CYMP, then the new CYMP 2025 will determine the CYFCC committee structure. She will support each of the committees with updates.

NEW BUSINESS – CYMP 2020 REPORT CELEBRATION AND 2025 PLANNING KICKOFF

The CYMP Five Year Report will soon be released, at which point the planning for the next CYMP will be kicked off, giving the CYFCC a reason to celebrate.

Action: Brainstorm community outreach options for upcoming CYMP 2025 Planning Kickoff:

- Announcement in Zebra
- General Press Release
- Going where things are already happening – key city-wide events
- Fall Festival
- Farmer’s Markets and Organizations on the West end
- Create a short video by youth for Commission members to post, as well as airing it during TCW’s advisory period
- STEM Group that meets at Watergate – 150 kids October 5th. Dianara Saget will email Noraine Buttar with more information
- Back to School nights – share flyer
- International Night
- Digitize the process. Reach more people who can’t go to a community meeting
- Go Door to Door

Next meeting – summarize all these different options.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allen Lomax, who is also Chair of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, shared a flyer for the upcoming workshop on October 5th from 9AM-12PM. During this workshop, the three top health priorities will be selected. This initiative is part of the Unified Planning Process to develop three City-wide plans which will impact all Alexandrians – the Community Healthy Improvement Plan, the ACPS Strategic Plan 2025, and the CYMP 2025. Youth were encouraged to attend all Community Meetings related to the Unified Planning Process.

Mike Mackey announced that utilization of the Northern Virginia Regional Juvenile Detention Center has decreased significantly over the last few years. Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church have organized an independent study, a Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Northern VA Regional Detention Center and Alternatives, with The Moss Group. Among the most vital parts of the study is stakeholder feedback related to the status of detention. He sent an email to the Commission, providing everyone with more information and future opportunities to provide feedback.

ADJOURNMENT (8:35 PM)