

Fairfax County Human Services Council
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024 at 7 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center Room 11

HSC Members Present: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Barbara Broman (Mt. Vernon), Robert Faherty (Franconia), Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Maria Posey (Braddock), Manolya Tanyu (Braddock), and Paul Thomas (Vice Chair/Hunter Mill)

HSC Members Participating Remotely: Jane Edmondson (Dranesville) and Thomas Goodwin (Providence) were unable to physically attend the meeting and participated virtually. Remote meeting attendees provided their locations and reason for needing to attend remotely.

HSC Members Excused: Martin Machowsky (At-Large)

HSC Members Absent: William Kogler (Springfield), Steven Lam (Springfield), and Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill)

Staff Present: Sarah Allen (Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Jill Clark (NCS, attending remotely), and Esha Doshi (NCS).

Call to Order: Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Health and Human Services Monthly Update: Sarah Allen, Deputy Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, provided the monthly update on behalf of Deputy County Executive Chris Leonard. She reviewed the two Board memos (i.e. NIPs) that were sent earlier regarding new permanent supportive housing and the “Gains, Gaps & Goals: The Status of Women and Girls in Fairfax County” report. Allen noted that on Friday, March 22, there will be a presentation and panelist event from 2-5 p.m. in the Board Auditorium on the report findings. Allen also noted that the Board advertised a tax rate of \$1.135 per \$100 of assessed value. She also shared that Chris has received a lot of positive feedback about the HHS Partners Summit.

HHS Partners Summit Debrief and Next Steps: Members shared their impressions and takeaways about the HHS Partners Summit. The common themes identified were the need for additional coordination and regular collaboration among BACs, nonprofits, and houses of worship. Members discussed strategies for doing that, including convening topic-specific meetings for stakeholders to focus on specific issues or demographics, scheduling stakeholder events throughout the year with both weekday and weekend offerings, and allocating future Innovation Fund money to initiatives that foster partnerships between multiple community-based organizations for capacity building and sustainability.

HSC Budget Committee Report Out: Paul Thomas reported that the Budget Committee met on March 6 to work on the budget letter. The next committee meeting will be held on March 22, 11 a.m.-noon. Jill Clark will send the draft letter out to all members for review and they can send feedback to Jill or Paul. The budget letter will be adopted at the April HSC meeting.

2024 General Assembly Recap: Jill Clark shared the highlights of the 2024 General Assembly session, including Virginia FOIA legislation that takes effect July 1 and will enable public bodies like the HSC to increase their all-virtual meetings from 25% to 50%. She will provide another update after the General Assembly’s reconvened (veto) session on April 17.

Approval of the Minutes: The February 26, 2024 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Faherty moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion was carried.

Member Sharing: Maria Posey shared that the Child Care Advisory Council is focusing on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted school readiness. She also noted that the Advisory Social Services Board is undergoing a strategic planning process.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.