

**Fairfax County Human Services Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 20, 2023, 7 p.m.**  
**Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 11**

**HSC Members Present:** Kevin Bell (At-Large), Barbara Broman (Mt. Vernon), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Steven Lam (Springfield), Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Maria Posey (Braddock), Manolya Tanyu (Braddock), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), and Edward Yost (Sully). Robert Faherty (Franconia) and Martin Machowsky (At-Large) participated remotely.

**HSC Members Participating Remotely:** Robert Faherty and Martin Machowsky 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:** Michael Smith (Mt. Vernon).

**HSC Members Absent:** William Kogler (Springfield).

**Staff Present:** Sarah Allen (Deputy Director, Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Jill Clark (NCS), and Viola Coleman (NCS).

**Call to Order:** Human Services Council Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The October 16, 2023 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Bell moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

**Health and Human Services Monthly Update:** Sarah Allen provided the monthly HHS update on behalf of Chris Leonard, HHS Deputy County Executive. She reminded the Council of the recent memos (i.e., NIPs) sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the temporary closing of the Homeownership Program to new applicants, updates to the [Housing Choice Voucher Program](#), and information about the [Economic Mobility Pilot implementation](#). She also noted that on November 28, the BOS Legislative Committee and the Budget Policy Committee meetings will take place. Allen also shared that the Community Health Dashboard will be released after the Thanksgiving holiday and that the [HHS Innovation Fund](#) awards will be made in December with funding disbursed in January 2024.

**2024 HHS Stakeholders Retreat:** Chair Menapace reported that there have been some discussions on how to increase engagement among the HHS Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs). Poje shared the idea to have a retreat on a Saturday morning in February or early March to dialogue on how to collaborate effectively, discuss emerging issues, and identify priorities. He asked for volunteers to participate in the planning committee.

Some suggestions included using the retreat as a call-to action, gather information to strengthen FY 25 budget testimony, identify gaps, and develop projects for BAC members to stay engaged.

**Legislative Update:** Jill Clark, HHS Policy and Planning Manager, reported that the November 28 BOS Legislative Committee meeting will be the final meeting of the fall for the Board to finalize the 2024 legislative program. She also shared that the Fairfax County delegation will hold a public hearing at the Government Center in January 2024 and that the General Assembly convenes on January 10. She added that Governor Youngkin will release his biennium budget on December 20.

**Chair's Items:** Menapace noted that the Council need volunteers for the HSC Budget Committee. She also reported that Michelle Gregory will present on the Community Health Dashboard at the December meeting, which will be virtual and include other BACs.

**Member Sharing:** Poje reported that the next [Affordable Housing Advisory Council](#) meeting will be on December 1. Broman reported that the [Health Care Advisory Board](#) put out a reminder that the Medicaid eligibility renewals have restarted now that the public health emergency is over. Thomas reported that the next [Successful Children & Youth Policy Team](#) meeting will be held December 6. Falcon shared that this will be his last HSC meeting due to his new role and encouraged the Council to assign a new liaison soon for the [Child Care Advisory Council](#). Lam said the [Long Term Care Coordinating Council](#) discussed technology use among older adults at their last meeting. Maria Posey said the [Advisory Social Services Board](#) presented on the Department of Family Services customer satisfaction survey.

**Adjournment:** Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

*Minutes captured by Coleman.*