

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
Human Services Council
GENERAL BODY MEETING

**Monday, January 23, 2023 at
7:00 p.m.**

will be held electronically due to the
COVID-19 pandemic.

Live Zoom meeting may be accessed:

PC, Mac, Linux, IOS or Android

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81042557383>

Password: HSC202!mtg

or

by dialing:

602-333-0032 (USA)

888-270-9936 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 926143

(Live Closed Captioning Will Be Provided)

Meeting materials will be posted online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/human-services-council

or by contacting V. Coleman at
viola.coleman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

This will be a General Body Meeting

For ADA accommodations, please contact 703-324-4600. TTY: VA Relay 711

Human Services Council Monthly Meeting

Virtual – Video/Audio Conference

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81042557383>

Password: **HSC202!mtg**

Or telephone: 1-888-270-9936 (code: 926143)

January 23, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order	Michele Menapace (Chair)
Roll Call (Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting)	Michele Menapace (Chair)
Approval of December Meeting Minutes	Michele Menapace (Chair)
Health and Human Services Update	Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services)
Food Access Initiatives	Ramona Carroll (Equity Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services)
State Legislative Update	Jill Clark (Senior HHS Policy & Program Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services)
Planning for FY 24 Budget Testimony <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSC Budget Committee• February HSC Meeting	Michele Menapace (Chair)
Member Sharing	HSC members
Chair's Report	Michele Menapace (Chair)
Adjourn	Michele Menapace (Chair)

Next HSC Meeting: **February 27, 2023, 7 p.m.**

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/human-services-council

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81042557383> with password HSC202!mtg,
or telephone 602-333-0032, 888-270-9936 (U.S. Toll Free), conference code 926143

HSC Members Present: Michele Menapace (Chair/Lee), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Robert Faherty (Lee), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Excused: Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason).

HSC Members Absent: Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Leah Ganssle (Sully), William Kogler (Springfield), and Steven Lam (Springfield).

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

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Chair Menapace took attendance and made the requisite motions required for virtual meetings as part of Virginia FOIA compliance.

Chair Menapace explained the need to conduct the HSC meeting electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made it unsafe for the HSC and the public to physically assemble. The live video and audio Zoom meeting was accessible by computer or phone. Chair Menapace moved to approve conducting the meeting electronically. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Menapace moved for the necessity to move forward with all the matters discussed in tonight's meeting for the continuity and continuation of operations and the discharge of the HSC's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Approval of the Minutes: The November 2022 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Foltz moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services Updates: Sarah Allen, Deputy Director for NCS, provided the monthly update on behalf of Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services. She reported that most COVID-19 community testing locations have been closed, as well as the County's vaccination centers due to low turnout. Community members may contact the Fairfax County Health Department's COVID-19 call center if they need assistance with obtaining a test or vaccine.

Allen announced that over 200 applications were submitted for the 2022 Nonprofit Sustainability Grant program. Applications were reviewed for eligibility and 192 have been approved for funding. Disbursements are expected to begin soon.

Allen encouraged members to watch the recording of the November 22, 2022 Board of Supervisors Housing Committee meeting through the County's [BOS Committee Meetings Video Archive](#). Tom Barnett, Deputy Director of Housing & Community Development, presented on new strategies that are being considered for homeless services. In January, Chris Leonard will share additional details about the FY 2024 advertised budget that will be released on February and share more about the new HHS Resource Plan process.

State Budget and 2023 General Assembly Preview: Jill Clark, Senior HHS Policy & Program Analyst for NCS, reported that the General Assembly will convene for its annual session on January 11, 2023. The balance of

power will be the same as last year's session, but every seat is up for election in November. There also will be changes due to redistricting.

Clark shared that bills are being pre-filed and common themes include parental involvement/consent with education, reproductive health, and behavioral health. This past Thursday, Governor Youngkin released his budget proposal. She reported that behavioral health received a lot of attention and new funding, particularly related to crisis care. No additional funds were proposed for affordable housing in this budget. On January 5, there will be a virtual state budget hearing for residents to provide input.

Starting on January 20, 2023, the BOS Legislative Committee will be meeting every Friday at 4 p.m. at the Government Center. She will provide updates on HHS-related legislation on a regular basis to the HSC.

Planning for FY 2024 County Budget Input: Chair Menapace reviewed the FY 2024 fiscal forecast that was presented at the recent BOS Budget Policy Committee meeting. The Council discussed possible items to include in their budget testimony, including affordable housing, youth mental health, employee compensation, securing anticipated additional federal resources, repurposing office space, and support for nonprofits. Additionally, Chair Menapace asked for a volunteer to chair the Budget Committee.

Member Sharing: Paul Thomas reported that the most recent Successful Children & Youth Policy Team's meeting took place at the new Sully Community Center. Meeting highlights included the Children's Behavioral Health Plan and a presentation on the Early Childhood Family Partnership Framework.

Marty Machowsky provided an update on the Commission on Aging and the extensive efforts related to community input for the SHAPE the Future of Aging plan. He suggested that the HSC may want to have a presentation on that initiative next year.

Patrice Winter reported that she met with the NCS staff working on the HHS Innovation Challenge Fund last week and that staff plan to release the Request for Proposals in the first part of 2023. There will be \$200,000 available for small businesses and nonprofits for proposals related to economic mobility.

Jerry Poje shared that the Affordable Housing Advisory Council met last week and included a Budget Committee presentation by Joe Mondoro about the County's budget process, who is the former Fairfax County Chief Financial Officer. He will have the link to that presentation circulated.

Chair's Report: Menapace noted that the 2023 meeting calendar was included in the meeting packet and will help members keep track of deadlines, key dates, and discussion topics. She reminded members that in the spring they will need to form a nominating committee to elect new officers. She also reminded members of the criticality in them attending other HHS BAC meeting to stay informed, particularly on budget priorities.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.

Public Assistance & Employment Services Division Updates

January 2023



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY SERVICES



The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 has significant changes to the Medicaid and SNAP programs.

Medicaid Update

- Medicaid renewals not completed between March 2020 and February 2023 will be completed within the next 14 months.
- Medicaid renewals will begin to be mailed to some households March 2023.
- Medicaid eligibility is returning to normal April 1st.
- Reductions and terminations in coverage will resume when applicable.

SNAP Update

- Prior to the pandemic, SNAP allotments were based on household size, income, and some allowable expenses.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the SNAP Program has been providing all SNAP households a supplement on the 16th of the month that increases their benefit to the maximum allotment for their SNAP household size.
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 passed by Congress ends emergency allotments nationwide February 2023.
- March 2023, all SNAP households' benefits will return to normal amounts, without the added supplement.
- Social Security recipients receive an increase to that benefit each January. This increase to their Social Security may result in a bigger decrease to their SNAP allotment in March.

Communications Plan

- The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) plans to begin mailing SNAP households a letter notifying them of the end to the Emergency Allotment as early as next week. The letter will be available in 5 languages.
- VDSS will be standing up a Call Center for households with questions.
- Fairfax County will be conducting a mailing alerting households of the change in Emergency Allotments.
- Updates to the public facing VDSS website and our Fairfax County pages alerting households of the change and will include local and state food resources. We are creating a page for Medicaid as well.
- Press releases and information shared via social media in coordination with state communications.
- Continued information sharing with internal and external partners, including information sessions.

Fairfax County ARPA Food Access Program (FAP) Funding for Community Providers

Funding Opportunities for Community Food Providers



Ramona Carroll, Program Manager
Neighborhood and Community Services
Human Services Council Meeting, January 23, 2023

Access to Food Resources in Fairfax County

- ▶ Significant need for food assistance continues in Fairfax County. Since the pandemic the need for food has been exasperated. Community, County, State and Federal funding have been made available to increase food security.
- ▶ Fairfax County residents access food supports through working directly with community providers, connecting with the Department of Family Services, the Health Department and/or with Coordinated Services Planning.
- ▶ Since the pandemic, strategic partnerships have worked together to create innovative and creative food resources. Partnerships have developed including county agencies, FCPS, houses of worship, civic organizations and others all coming together to disburse food in the community and (initially) directly to residents' home as well as linking residents to services.

ARPA Food Access Program Background

- ▶ Community food providers were using funding through their own fund raising efforts, grants and support through the Consolidated Community Funding Pool.
- ▶ Prior to and since the pandemic, community food providers have been queried to determine their capacity and needs:
 - ▶ 2018 Survey of Food Providers assessed the feasibility of expanding the county's Stuff the Bus from once a year to twice a year. Infrastructure needs were identified.
 - ▶ 2021 Food Providers were surveyed on capacity to serve pandemic-related food needs. Funds for purchasing food and infrastructure needs were identified.

The Food Access Program was developed to financially support some of the county's food access needs, support our key backbone food providing organizations as well as fund new innovative providers. The program funds the purchase of food, infrastructure needs as well as innovation in food practices.

Fairfax County

ARPA Food Access Program

Funded through ARPA, \$7.5 million dollars for food system infrastructure support and the purchasing of food for community food providers over the next 3 years.

The initial investment (Round 1) of \$3.5 million was administered during FY 22. The remaining \$4 million will be distributed in FY 23 (Round 2) and FY 24 (Round 3) for the purchase of food.

- ▶ Purchase of Food
- ▶ Innovative Practices in Food Allocation
- ▶ Food System Infrastructure Supports

Food Access Program Three Lane Approach

There are 3 “lanes” of funding for the initial \$3.5 million. This program launched in mid-October 2021:

- ▶ **Lane 1** is for direct food assistance in the amount of \$1.5 million and will be proportionately allocated according to regional need.
- ▶ **Lane 2** will be in the amount of \$500,000 for a new model in food service delivery.
- ▶ **Lane 3** is to provide \$1.5 million in infrastructure investments for food storage, delivery and enhanced client supports.

Lanes 1 and 2 will be allocated proportional to community needs. Lane 3 will be available to all food providers as infrastructure supports are needed by all food providers.

Food Access Program Awardee Details per Round

FAP Round 1: Initial investment of \$3.5 million was available \$1.5 million for direct food purchase proportionately allocated, \$500,00 for innovative models of food service programming and \$1.5 million for infrastructure supports. This funds were allocated across 47 organizations (25 Community Based Organizations and 22 Houses of Worship).

FAP Round 2: Investment of \$2 million dollars for direct food assistance and innovative models of food service delivery. These funds were allocated to 52 organizations (28 Community Based Organizations and 24 Houses of Worship). There were 14 new partners.

FAP Round 3: This will be a \$2 million dollar investment in direct food assistance and potentially system infrastructure needs. This will be allocated to be used from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Emergency Food Assistance Response Plan

To address food insecurity, we must *strategically allocate resources* (FAP), *strategic plan* (Emergency Food Strategy Team, Emergency Food Assistance Response Plan) and *enhance/expand strategic food partnerships* (Stuff the Bus, etc.)

Emergency Food Assistance Response Plan:

Objective 1: Equitable food access

- ▶ Residents who experience food insecurity can access food resources that are desired, affordable, available and accommodate their ethnic preferences. This could range from a food pantry that enables clients to choose their items, to adjusting the content of pre-packaged meals or boxes of ingredients to better meet the priorities of the people receiving them.

Objective 2: Reducing barriers to food access

- ▶ Lack of transportation and other resources create barriers to food security. Partnerships, and the collaborations that emerge out of partnerships, can enhance the capabilities of service providers, and provide improved food access for residents.

Objective 3: Connecting those who are or who could become food insecure to resources

- ▶ We need to build and expand county and community support so that it is comprehensive to provide a responsive and equitable food access system.

Questions?

Please email

Ramona.carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov