

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84179853205> with password HSC202!mtg, or telephone 602-333-0032, 888-270-9936 (U.S. Toll Free), conference code 457970

HSC Members Present: Michele Menapace (Chair/Lee), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Lee), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Tianja Grant (Providence), William Kogler (Springfield), Steve Lam (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), Lanita Thweatt (Mt. Vernon), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Excused: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully).

HSC Members Absent: Jeff Dannick (Braddock), Leah Ganssle (Sully).

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive), Jill Clark (Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)), and VeeVee Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The chair took attendance and made the requisite motions required for virtual meetings as part of Virginia FOIA compliance. Menapace moved that each member's voice could be adequately heard by all participating members. It was seconded and carried.

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 and 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. Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Approval of the Minutes: The December 20 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Thomas moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried with noted corrections.

Health and Human Services Updates: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services provided an update on Afghan resettlement. In addition, Leonard reported on efforts to improve access to COVID-19 testing, which has seen an increased demand due to the COVID-19 Omicron variant. He encouraged members to order the free home test kits from the federal government. He also shared information about the Board of Supervisors Personnel Committee meeting on February 1, which will focus on retention and recruitment issues.

FY 2023 Proposed Budget Preparation: Vice Chair Wang reported on the HSC Budget Committee's tentative plan for the FY 2023 budget. Christina Jackson, CFO, will present the budget at the February meeting. Other HHS boards, authorities, and commissions (BACs) will be invited to attend that presentation. After the meeting, the other BACs will be provided with a short questionnaire to provide their input about budget priorities, which the HSC will consider during the development of the budget letter and presentation. Staff will draft a budget letter for the Budget Committee to review. The letter will be approved at the HSC meeting on March 21 and then presented to BOS during their Budget Policy Committee meeting on March 29. In addition, the HHS Resource Plan will be updated for the FY 2023 advertised budget release.

2022 General Assembly Update: Jill Clark reported that the General Assembly kicked off on January 12. There are over 2,500 bills introduced this year with key themes to include education, public safety, voting, gun control, and COVID-19. There are also many bills related to mental health. Clark offered to share information about upcoming BOS Legislative Committee meetings and keep members updated about HHS-related legislation.

Member Sharing: Poje reported that the Housing Symposium will take place on March 17. The BOS is having a groundbreaking ceremony on January 27 for One University, a new affordable housing project that will have both senior and student housing. Thweatt provided highlights of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team's December 2021 meeting to include an endorsement on budget funding requests, an update on the Hospital Diversion Pilot Project, and the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan. Machowsky noted that he is chairing the Mason District Site Specific Plan Amendment Task Force, which is moving forward with a plan amendment that would create opportunities for senior affordable housing. Additional details will be distributed to members via email.

Chair's Report: Chair Menapace reported that the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee is finalizing the draft one-year action plan. Menapace and Bloom recently attended the first meeting of the HHS Resource Plan Redesign Workgroup. She reminded members of the roster of HHS BACs that was shared earlier today and requested that each member identify a BAC that they want to engage with and attend their meetings so that the HSC is aware of their activities and priorities, which will help the HSC fulfill its mission. Menapace added that the Commission on Women and the Disability Services Board have vacancies and to spread the word.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.