

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

March 21, 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), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Lee), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Leah Ganssle (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Tianja Grant (Providence), William Kogler (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), Lanita Thweatt (Mt. Vernon), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Absent: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Jeff Dannick (Braddock), and Steven Lam (Springfield).

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

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

Approval of the Minutes: The February 28 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Faherty moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services Updates: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health & Human Services, reported they have been preparing for various Board of Supervisors (BOS) committee meetings and encouraged the group to watch the recordings. Recent NIP items/memos to the BOS included updates on the Department of Family Services' child welfare transformation work and early childhood. Leonard added that a new compilation of budget Q&As will soon be posted on the Department of Management and Budget's website.

Review and Approval of the FY 2023 Advertised Budget Letter to Board of Supervisors: Menapace acknowledged that the Council had a compressed timeframe to develop its budget letter so provided an opportunity for members to share additional recommendations and edits for the draft budget letter. She shared her appreciation for Alis Wang's leadership on the Budget Committee and committee members for their work in developing the draft letter.

The draft letter was reviewed by paragraph and Council members recommended edits and provided clarification on some topics, including using Machowsky's recommended language for the real estate tax rate and associated revenues, adding language that the Council supports *at least* a \$2.3 million increase in HHS contracts, and adding data about people with disabilities. Data for 2021 opioid overdose emergency visits will also be added to the final version. The Council also added language to clarify that the topics are listed alphabetically and not ranked or prioritized.

Legislative Update: Jill Clark reported that General Assembly adjourned on March 12. They have unfinished business due to not passing the state budget yet. About 43 bills were carried over to a “soon to be determined” special session date. The biggest challenge is resolving the differences in how to address the state surplus. Clark reported that she will have a more comprehensive update in an upcoming meeting once the budget is adopted.

Member Sharing: New HSC appointee, Adwoa Rey from the Mt. Vernon District, was introduced by Menapace. Rey shared some of her experience and background.

Poje reported that the recordings and presentation materials from the 3rd Annual Symposium on Affordable Housing is now online. Grant reported that she connected with the Council to End Domestic Violence. They were enthusiastic about working with HSC.

Chair’s Report: Menapace reported that she will be sending out the final list of HHS BACs that HSC members have volunteered to liaison with. She also plans to send letters on behalf of the Council out to the HHS BAC chairs introducing the respective liaisons and informing them of the HSC’s intent to have a liaison attend their meetings to keep the HSC informed of the key issues of other BACs. Menapace will be presenting the HSC’s budget recommendation at BOS Budget Policy Committee meeting on March 29.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.