

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 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), Jeff Dannick (Braddock), Robert Faherty (Lee), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Leah Ganssle (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Tianja Grant (Providence), William Kogler (Springfield), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), and Lanita Thweatt (Mt. Vernon).

HSC Members Excused: Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Absent: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), and Steven Lam (Springfield).

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for HHS), Sarah Allen (Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)), Anne-Marie Twohie (NCS), Flor Philips (NCS), Jill Clark (NCS), and VeeVee Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Chair Menapace took attendance and made the requisite motions required for virtual meetings as part of Virginia FOIA compliance. Poje 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 March 21 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Poje moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation on School Readiness: Anne-Marie Twohie, director of the Office for Children and Flor Philips, deputy director of the Office for Children, presented on school readiness and child care. The presentation highlighted the different types of early childhood experiences, recommendations from the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan, child care affordability, and the Ready Regions initiative. They also shared data about children served and the supply and demand of child care pre-pandemic and now. Early childhood programs have received federal COVID-19 relief funding, which has been used to help child care centers remain open during the pandemic and to temporarily expand child care subsidies. These programs have benefited from grant programs and state grants using federal funds.

Health and Human Services Updates: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health & Human Services, reminded the HSC of the two Board memos (NIPs) that were recently shared via email about youth nonfatal overdoses and panhandling. Leonard noted that the County is partnering with FCPS to provide educational webinars on youth substance use trends and supports in April. Regarding panhandling, he mentioned that the County continues to dispatch outreach workers to encourage individuals who are panhandling to seek wrap-around services. Leonard also reminded the HSC that the link to the FY 2023 budget Q&As were sent out and

encouraged members to review them. Budget mark-up will be on April 26 and the Board will adopt the budget on May 10.

Leonard also answered questions concerning HHS issues and the mental health challenges caused by the pandemic. He recommended that they continue to invite agencies to present about specific programs and issues. Menapace noted that the Council is planning to invite more HHS directors and subject matter experts to upcoming HSC meetings.

HSC's FY 2023 Budget Presentation: Menapace reported that her presentation to the Board on the HSC's budget recommendations was well-received. The Board asked some good follow-up questions, made suggestions for topics HSC might study more in-depth, and also appeared concerned about funding contract rate adjustments for nonprofit partners via HHS agency contracts.

Member Sharing: Poje reported that the next Affordable Housing Advisory Commission will be on May 20. This group is meeting in-person with a hybrid structure, and he suggested that the HSC consider returning to in-person meetings. Thweatt said the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team met on March 20 and discussed school readiness efforts and Healthy Minds Fairfax, as well as conducted a focus group session on behavioral health. In addition, she attended her first Commission for Women meeting and noted that they are actively recruiting to fill several vacancies. Menapace reported that the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee met and focused on the FY 2023 One-Year Action Plan, which describes how Fairfax County intends to use the Federal Funds to meet the needs established in the Consolidated Plan and is based on the goals and strategies established in the Consolidated Plan. Two tools were developed for the Technical Advisory Committee containing a wealth of demographic data, including, but not limited to income, poverty, nutrition, food security, health, digital access, youth, and housing, which she will disseminate after the meeting.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.