

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

August 15, 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), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), William Kogler (Springfield), Steven Lam (Springfield), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Excused: Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville).

HSC Members Absent: Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Lee), and Leah Ganssle (Sully).

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for HHS), Sarah Allen (Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Ramona Carroll (NCS), Jill Clark (NCS), Viola Coleman (NCS), Jenifer Henry-Jones (NCS), Norma Lopez (NCS), and Katina Matthews (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Vice-Chair Wang called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Vice-Chair Wang took attendance and made the requisite motions required for virtual meetings as part of Virginia FOIA compliance.

Vice-Chair Wang 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. Vice-Chair Wang moved to approve conducting the meeting electronically. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Winter 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 July 18, 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: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services (HHS) reminded the HSC of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) memos (NIPs) that were recently shared with them. He noted that one of the NIPs outlines resources available in extreme heat for people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. He informed that a workgroup was currently exploring strategies to enhance the County's response during heat emergencies. He also reminded the HSC that the next BOS HHS Committee meeting will be on October 4 and the next BOS Housing Committee meeting will be on November 22.

Leonard announced that a webpage has been developed on reproductive health care to inform residents of the status of Virginia law and a link to accessing information about services in the Human Services Resource Guide. He said a new multidisciplinary workgroup will work with Government Relations staff to analyze any new legislation that is introduced during the 2023 session.

He added that the carryover package features several HHS items, including funding for child care, a new community center, and new family shelter. Leonard also noted that the County was able to access additional Emergency Rental Assistance funds from the Treasury Department, which will be used for the County's Emergency Rental Assistance Bridge Program.

HHS Innovation Challenge Fund: Patrice Wood shared the background and history of the Innovation Challenge that she and Tom Goodwin have been championing for the past several years. Jenifer Henry-Jones and Norma Lopez, and Katina Matthews provided an update on the 2022 HHS Innovation Challenge Fund. They shared the fund's purpose, goals, eligibility, process, timeline, and monitoring and communications plan. Henry-Jones noted that by focusing on economic opportunity, the Fund aligns with existing county initiatives and strategies to address barriers to economic mobility among the most vulnerable residents in the County. She noted that \$200,000 will be awarded to businesses and nonprofits with two awards of \$50,000 and four awards of \$25,000.

Matthews reported that there will be a new procurement process and therefore the timeline is still under development. They are hoping to launch this effort in Fall 2022 with an award in Winter 2023. She added that there will be an opportunity for HSC representation on the selection advisory committee to evaluate proposals.

Adoption of the HSC Remote Participation and All-Virtual Meetings Policies: Due to a new state law that takes effect September 1, Chair Menapace announced that the HSC will need to adopt remote participation and all-virtual meeting policies for the HSC to allow members to participate remotely and for certain meetings to be conducted virtually.

Menapace noted that there are exemptions in place that allows for those to participate remotely due to a disability or being a family caregiver to someone with a disability. It would take new legislation to be passed in the 2023 General Assembly session to modify the law.

Chair Menapace stated that there are issues to resolve once the local state of emergency is lifted, including establishing a process to have a quorum in-person, securing meeting space at the Government Center due to vaccine clinics and in-person voting, and ensuring that the meeting space is equipped with technology to support a hybrid meeting.

Menapace moved to approve the two policies as written. Machowsky made a motion and was seconded by Winter. The motion carried.

Member Sharing: Follow-up meeting materials will be sent out tomorrow, including Poje's resources on affordable housing.

Chair's Report: Menapace encouraged HSC members to contact their supervisors and state legislators with any concerns regarding the new state law for remote participation and all-virtual public meetings.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.