

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes January 23, 2023, 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/Franconia), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Robert Faherty (Franconia), 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: Christopher Falcon (Mason)

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

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for HHS), Sarah Allen (Department of Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Ramona Carroll (NCS), Lisa Tatum (Department of Family Services [DFS]), Patricia Araujo (DFS), and Viola Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 December 19, 2022 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Faherty moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services Monthly Update: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services (HHS), reminded the Council of the memos (i.e., NIPs) sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) that were recently shared with them about opioid settlements and the unwinding of SNAP and Medicaid pandemic waivers. He reported that they will be presenting to the BOS's HHS Committee in February 2023 on the opioid settlement agreement funds. Leonard also added that the County has been preparing for over a year on the SNAP and Medicaid unwinding and Lisa Tatum will provide more information in her presentation.

Leonard reported that the FY 2024 Advertised Budget will be released on February 21. The County's Chief Financial Officer, Christina Jackson, will present about the budget at the February HSC meeting. The Strategic Allocation of Resources (StAR) Plan, formerly known as the HHS Resource Plan, will be discussed further at the meeting. He encouraged members to attend or watch the BOS Budget Policy Committee and BOS HHS Committee meetings on February 28. Leonard added that these recorded meetings can also be accessed through the [BOS Committee Meetings Video Archive](#).

SNAP and Medicaid Unwinding: DFS' Division Director of Public Assistance and Employment Services, Lisa Tatum and Patty Araujo, Quality Improvement Manager, presented on the upcoming changes to SNAP benefits and Medicaid. During the beginning of the pandemic, the federal government issued policies that provided flexibilities and waivers to support individuals and families during the pandemic. However, Medicaid eligibility will be returning to normal on April 1, 2023 as part of the "unwinding" process. Recipients may start to see a

reduction or termination of benefits in March 2023, but it will be 14-month process for DFS staff to complete Medicaid renewals. Tatum noted that there is a small population who are no longer eligible who may apply through the federal marketplace or may qualify for care through a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Tatum also reported that the SNAP allotment supplement that households received during the pandemic will end in February 2023. In addition, the cost-of-living increases that Social Security recipients received this year may result in a bigger decrease in monthly SNAP allotments starting in March. There has been significant planning for these changes, including a robust communication plan to share information with impacted residents, as well as community partners. Additionally, they will be partnering with NCS to connect residents to emergency food resources.

Food Access Initiatives: Ramona Carroll, NCS' Equity Manager, presented on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Food Access Program (FAP) Funding for community providers. She reported that since the pandemic, strategic partnerships have developed and County, state, and federal funding have contributed to the significant need for food. The FAP was developed to assist with the County's food access needs, support key backbone food organizations, and fund new and innovative practices. She also provided information about the Emergency Food Assistance Response Plan and shared its objectives.

Legislative Update: Sarah Allen provided an update on behalf of Jill Clark, Senior HHS Policy & Program Analyst. Allen reported that the first BOS Legislative Committee meeting took place on and encouraged members to watch the meeting recording. Allen said Clark will have a more thorough update at the February HSC meeting.

Planning for FY 2024 County Budget Testimony: Chair Menapace provided a timeline of important dates that are listed on the HSC calendar. She reported that the county's CFO will be presenting on the County budget at the February HSC meeting. Members from other HHS boards, authorities, and commissions will be invited and have an opportunity to provide feedback. On March 20, the HSC will approve its budget letter and in mid-April, this letter will be presented to the BOS. Paul Thomas and Marty Machowsky volunteered to co-chair the HSC Budget Committee. Menapace encouraged other members to the committee.

Member Sharing: Poje shared that at the recent Affordable Housing Advisory Council (AHAC) meeting, they discussed their budget committee's approach to the 2023 calendar year. He added that AHAC had a discussion with the County's Government Relations Director about the County's lobbying policy. There was also a discussion concerning the one-for-one replacement strategy for affordable housing.

Menapace encouraged members to listen to the recording of the public hearing convened by the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFAC) on behalf of the Department of Housing and Community Development. This recording and materials can be found on the [CCFAC website](#). In addition, she mentioned CCFAC's prior public hearing focused on categories for the next funding cycle. There will also be upcoming public hearings related to the County's housing plans.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.