

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes February 27, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81042557383> with password HSC202!mtg
or call 602-333-0032/888-270-9936 (U.S. Toll Free), conference code 926143

HSC Members Present: Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Franconia), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Maria Posey (Braddock), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Excused: Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason),

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

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for HHS), Christina Jackson (Chief Financial Officer), Sarah Allen (Department of Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Jill Clark (NCS), 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.

Menapace conducted a roll call of representatives from various boards, authorities, and commissions (BACs).

Approval of the Minutes: The January 23, 2023 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Poje moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

FY 2024 Advertised Budget Presentation: Christina Jackson, Chief Financial Officer for Fairfax County, presented on the FY 2024 Advertised Budget Plan and the FY 2024-28 Capital Improvement Program. She reported that the advertised budget focuses on strengthening the County's workforce and the existing programs. A significant portion is being allocated toward inflationary pressures and contract rate increases. Like last year, the primary driver of revenue growth is residential real estate.

Jackson noted that the first Countywide Strategic Plan Annual Report was released with the budget, which outlines the initial progress the County has made. She provided information about the annual changes in General Fund revenue and major revenue categories. Jackson predicts that the FY 2025 budget will be challenging as revenue projections will depend upon inflation. She also shared the different ways the public can participate in the budget process and the FY 2024 budget timeline.

Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services (HHS), encouraged the group to attend or watch the Board of Supervisors HHS and Budget Policy Committee meetings on February 28. Leonard addressed the impact of the unwinding of the federal pandemic benefits and how the County will continue to support basic needs. He also responded to questions about food assistance and the funding process for community organizations.

FY 2024 HHS Strategic Allocation of Resources (StAR): Leonard explained why the former HHS Resource Plan was redeveloped (StAR). Jill Clark, Senior HHS Policy & Program Analyst, provided an overview of the StAR Plan and the enhancements that have been added, including information about the federal pandemic relief funding. She also shared how to navigate and use the plan.

Leonard addressed questions concerning compensation and retention issues, and unallocated budget funds. Sarah Allen, Deputy Director, responded to a question regarding legal aid funding for those at risk of eviction.

Joint HSC and HHS BAC Representatives' Budget Discussion: Menapace solicited comments and concerns from members of HHS boards, commissions, and authorities that will contribute toward the initial draft of the HSC's budget letter to the Board. Paul Thomas added that the Budget Committee meeting dates will be shared soon. He encouraged the HHS BACs to connect with Council members where there is an existing relationship or directly connect with him to share their recommendations and/or concerns about the budget.

Member Sharing: Thomas reported that at the most recent Successful Children and Youth Policy Team meeting, an update was provided on initiatives related to Opportunity Youth and My Brother's Keeper. Falcon shared information about COVID-19 guidance that was shared at the recent Childcare Advisory Council meeting. Mental health, self-care, and conflict resolution/de-escalating training were additional topics covered. Poje said at the recent Affordable Housing Advisory Council Executive Committee meeting, they focused on their budget strategy. He added the 2023 Housing Symposium will take place on March 15 at George Mason University. Menapace reported that the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee finalized a draft of the next funding cycle categories for public comment.

Chair's Report: Menapace reported that she will not be attending the March meeting and encouraged members to be engaged with the work of the Budget Committee.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.