

Fairfax County Human Services Council
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2023, 7 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: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Franconia), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Jerrold Foltz (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Steven Lam (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Maria Posey (Braddock), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock), and Edward Yost (Sully).

HSC Members Absent: William Kogler (Springfield).

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services (HHS), Ellen Volo (Community Services Board), Sarah Allen (Department of Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Jill Clark (NCS), and Viola Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 inclement weather forecast, 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 May 15, 2023 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Poje moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. Bloom abstained. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services Monthly Update: Chris Leonard reported that Jill Clark, HHS Policy and Planning Manager and Tom Barnett, Deputy Director, Housing and Community Development, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, presented at the June 13 Board of Supervisors (BOS) HHS Committee meeting on the County's enhanced extreme heat response. He shared that applications for the [Food Access Program](#) recently closed and that \$4 million will be awarded for direct food assistance and infrastructure investments. In addition, applications are being accepted for the [2023 Child Care Provider Grant Program](#), which will provide \$2.5 million to child care providers to assist with the economic recovery from the pandemic.

Leonard noted that the next BOS Housing Committee meeting will be on August 1. At the next HHS Committee meeting on October 17, there will be briefings on Medicaid unwinding and youth behavioral health.

Fairfax County's Opioid Response Strategy: Ellen Volo, Opioid and Substance Use Task Force Coordinator, presented on the opioid response strategy for Fairfax County. She shared the history of the program, including the establishment of the Opioid Task Force; the primary goals of the third Opioid Response Plan, and noted that this plan has 40 different activities with a multipronged strategy.

Volo also shared data on opioid-related deaths in the Fairfax Health District in the last few years and the efforts to combat opioid use.

2024 Legislative Program: Jill Clark shared information about the annual development of the County's state

legislative program. All boards, authorities, and commissions can submit proposals for new legislative positions or recommend edits to the existing language until August 8. Chair Menapace asked members to review the 2023 Legislative Program included in the meeting materials and submit suggestions in advance of the next meeting on what the Council should take action on or recommend.

Presentation of Nominations for 2023-2025 Officers: Patrice Winter, Nominations Committee Chair, announced the slate of HSC officers up for nomination. The voting will be conducted at the July 17 meeting. She noted that members may also make nominations from the floor during the meeting.

Chair's Items: In partnership with the [Community Action Advisory Board's \(CAAB\)](#) Chair, Menapace reported that she will be sending a follow-up to the HSC presentation on the FY 2024 advertised budget recommendations to the Board. This follow-up will focus on CAAB reports on challenges of nonprofits, such as barriers to service participation.

Member Sharing: Poje reported that the [Affordable Housing Advisory Council](#) met on June 23 and discussed housing preservation and the formation of a new Continuum of Care Advisory Board that will guide their work in addressing homelessness. Thomas reported that the [Successful Children & Youth Policy Team \(SCYPT\)](#) held its annual retreat and updates were provided on current initiatives. He shared that the group conducted an exercise to determine which initiatives to focus on. The next meeting is in September 2023. Foltz announced that he and his spouse are moving out of the area and therefore will be resigning soon.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.