

Fairfax County Human Services Council
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023, 7 p.m.

Location: (primary) Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 11, Fairfax, VA. Two members participated remotely via Zoom.

A quorum of Human Services Council members was physically assembled at the physical meeting location with nine members present. Steven Bloom and Adwoa Rey were unable to physically attend the meeting and participated virtually.

HSC Members Present: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Steven Bloom (Dranesville) via remote participation, Robert Faherty (Franconia), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon) via remote participation, Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock), Edward Yost (Sully).

HSC Members Excused: Martin Machowsky (At-Large) and Maria Posey (Braddock).

HSC Members Absent: William Kogler (Springfield), Steven Lam (Springfield), and Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill).

Staff Present: Sarah Allen (Department of Neighborhood and Community Services [NCS]), Jill Clark (NCS), and Viola Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. To adhere to the adopted remote participation policy, she asked members who were participating remotely to state for the record their location and the reason they were participating remotely.

Approval of the Minutes: The June 26, 2023 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Poje moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Monthly Update: Sarah Allen, Deputy Director of NCS, provided the monthly update on behalf of Chris Leonard, HHS Deputy County Executive. She reminded the Council of the memo (i.e., NIP) sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on efforts to mitigate Code Red air quality exposure. She reported that the FY 2023 Carryover Package will be released on July 24; HHS related items will be shared at the next Council meeting. Allen also shared that the next BOS Housing Committee meeting will be on August 1 at 9:30 a.m. and encouraged Council members to [watch live](#) or view the recording at the [BOS Committee Meetings Video Archive](#).

Discussion of HHS System Orientation: Allen and Jill Clark, HHS Policy and Planning Manager, presented on the development of a new HHS system orientation, which would be offered to new members of HHS boards, authorities, and commissions (BACs). Clark reviewed the purpose of the orientation, presented the curriculum, and then requested feedback from members. Suggestions from members included creating a short video that could be used for BAC member recruitment, as well as some recommendations about the content and format.

FY 2024 HSC Meeting Planning: Menapace asked for feedback on meeting topics and all-virtual meeting dates. It was decided that the December meeting will be an all-virtual meeting. Suggested topics for future meetings included cross-system initiatives, Opportunity Neighborhoods, impact of climate change on the HHS system, homelessness, and child care.

Election of the 2023-2025 Officers: HSC members were provided an opportunity to make floor nominations. None were received. An election was conducted via ballot vote using the slate of officers that was presented at the June meeting. Clark completed the count of ballots and reported that 11 votes were received for Menapace as chair. For the vice chair position, Wang received six votes and Thomas received five votes. Menace and Wang will serve as the officers for the 2023-2025 term.

Member Sharing: Poje reported that he recently attended an interfaith symposium in the North County area that was well-represented by all faiths.

Falcon advised that the [Child Care Advisory Council](#) is on break for the summer.

Winter announced that she has decided to not seek reappointment to the Council and that it was her last meeting. Bloom announced that he also decided not to seek reappointment and the July meeting will be his last. Menapace acknowledged their significant contributions to the HSC.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.