

Fairfax County Human Services Council
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023, 7 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 11

HSC Members Present: Kevin Bell (At-Large), Barbara Broman (Mt. Vernon), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Steven Lam (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Maria Posey (Braddock), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), and Edward Yost (Sully).

HSC Members Excused: Christopher Falcon (Mason) and Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason).

HSC Members Absent: Robert Faherty (Franconia) and William Kogler (Springfield).

Staff Present: Sarah Allen (Deputy Director, 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 7:02 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The August 21, 2023 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Bell moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services Monthly Update: Sarah Allen provided the monthly HHS update on behalf of Chris Leonard, HHS Deputy County Executive. She reminded the Council of the memos (i.e., NIPs) sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on opioid overdose trends, an update on the behavioral health crisis response system, and an update on the federal pandemic stimulus funding. She announced that the FY 2025-26 [Consolidated Community Funding Pool](#) Request for Proposals (RFPs) was launched last week and proposals are due by December 5, 2023. Allen noted that the BOS Legislative Committee and Budget Policy Committee will meet on September 19. The next BOS HHS Committee meeting will be on October 17 and topics will include an update on youth behavioral health, Medicaid unwinding, and the Extreme Heat Response Plan. The application portal for the [Economic Mobility Pilot](#) will remain open until October 3. She also noted that the RFP deadline for the [HHS Innovation Fund](#) have been extended to October 11.

Countywide Strategic Plan: Aimee Brobst, Division Director, Countywide Strategic Plan, Department of Management and Budget, presented on the [Countywide Strategic Plan](#). She shared the Plan's background and drivers and provided updates on the implementation of the Plan. A community engagement platform is being explored and she reported that there are infographics online that highlight actions being taken. Brobst announced that the annual report will be published soon. Additionally, she responded to questions and feedback regarding resident engagement, outreach and marketing, organizing content around pillars (common interests) that tie into the Plan, illustrating outcomes, aligning with targeted populations, and addressing unmet targets.

Legislative Update: Jill Clark, HHS Policy and Planning Manager, provided information about the fall Board Legislative Committee meetings, which focus on developing the 2024 state and federal legislative programs. She reported that the General Assembly finally passed the state budget during a one-day special session on September 6. Clark shared the HHS-related budget highlights.

Chair's Items: Chair Menapace reported that the Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs recently evaluated equity for Boards, Authorities, and Commissions' (BACs) membership. Access to attend in-person meetings is a barrier for some and BACs' structure and membership may change if legislation requiring in-person meetings is amended.

She also asked members to review the HHS BACs roster and indicate their interest in serving as a liaison for the BACs that do not have an HSC liaison yet. Additional members volunteered to liaise with

the [Commission on Aging](#) (Yost), [Health Care Advisory Board](#) (Broman), [Advisory Social Services Board](#) (Posey), [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board](#) (Goodwin), and [Long Term Care Coordinating Council](#) (Lam).

Member Sharing: Thomas reported that the next [Successful Children & Youth Policy Team](#) meeting will take place before the next Council meeting so he will have an update at the October meeting. Poje reported that the [Affordable Housing Advisory Council's](#) quarterly meeting is coming up and he will share information at a future meeting.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.