

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022

6 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84179853205> with password HSC202!mtg,
or telephone 602-333-0032, 888-270-9936 (U.S. Toll Free), conference code 457970

HSC Members Present: Michele Menapace (Chair/Lee), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Lee), Christopher Falcon (Mason), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Leah Ganssle (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Tianja Grant (Providence), William Kogler (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), Lanita Thweatt (Mt. Vernon), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Excused: Jeff Dannick (Braddock)

HSC Members Absent: Steve Lam (Springfield)

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services), Sarah Allen (Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)), Jill Clark (NCS), and VeeVee Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The chair took attendance and made the requisite motions required for virtual meetings as part of Virginia FOIA compliance. Menapace moved that each member's voice could be adequately heard by all participating members. It was seconded and carried.

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 and 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. Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

FY 2023 Advertised Budget Presentation: Christina Jackson, Chief Financial Officer, presented on the Fairfax County FY 2023 advertised budget. She reported that one of the priorities is county staff compensation, which will help address staff retention and recruitment challenges. The budget was built on the existing real estate tax rate and includes an \$80 million balance for the Board's consideration. The budget also funds investments in Board priorities, including affordable housing, Diversion First, opioid use prevention efforts, public safety staffing, and the new Language Access Program. Jackson noted that with significant increases in real estate and vehicles values, most residents will pay more unless there are changes to the tax rates, which will be discussed at an upcoming BOS Budget Policy Committee meeting. Jackson shared the timeline for the budget process and how residents can provide input about the budget. After her presentation, she answered questions about tax relief, inflation, affordable housing, and ARPA funding.

Joint HSC and HHS BAC Representatives' Discussion: Chair Menapace reported that the HSC is interested in the Board, Authorities, and Commissions' (BACs) priorities and concerns about the budget. A short online questionnaire will be sent out following the meeting to all HHS BAC staff coordinators for BACs to complete by March 15. She noted that the HSC will present its budget testimony at the BOS Budget Policy Committee on March 29.

Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services presented additional information about the HHS-related items in the advertised budget. Leonard also shared an overview of the FY 2023 HHS Resource

Plan. He reported that there is a workgroup of staff and community partners working on redeveloping the Resource Plan to align to the countywide strategic plan, Needs Assessment, and One Fairfax, as well as reflect the totality of HHS investments, including housing investments.

Leonard answered questions from the Council about the release of data for the annual Point-in-Time Count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and the potential impact of tax changes at the state level. He also noted that a new HHS Needs Assessment is expected later this year.

There was also a question on whether the Council will support a committed stream of funding for affordable housing. Menapace noted that the HSC Budget Committee will be considering recommendations like that as they develop the HSC's budget letter. Alis Wang, Vice Chair of the Council, explained the process and timeline for the completion of the budget letter for the BOS.

Menapace announced that the Council is now regularly engaging each HHS BAC and HSC members have each been assigned a BAC to liaison with and keep the Council updated about so that the Council will be more aware of emerging issues and concerns. There will be further engagement with HHS BACs on the redesign of the HHS Resource Plan later this year.

Approval of the Minutes: The January 24 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Poje moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Member Sharing: Jerry Poje reported that Tom Fleetwood, director of Department of Housing and Community Development, and his staff presented on the budget at the most recent meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Council. He plans to forward the presentation to the HSC. Lanita Thweatt shared information on the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team's Workforce Readiness and My Brother's Keeper initiatives, which were discussed at the February meeting. She will share additional details via email. Chris Falcon shared that he attended a recent Child Care Advisory Council meeting and his concerns on the affordability of child care. Menapace noted that the Advisory Social Services Board and the Health Care Advisory Board are the only BACs that still need coverage.

Chair's Report: Chair Menapace reported that the workgroup for the HHS Resource Plan has been meeting and will be sharing updates as the work continues. She will also send a list of the HSC liaisons for the HHS BACs so that members can see which BACs still need an HSC liaison.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.