

Human Services Council Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2022

7:00 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: Michele Menapace (Chair/Lee), Alis Wang (Vice Chair/Mason), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Steven Bloom (Dranesville), Robert Faherty (Lee), Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz (Sully), Leah Ganssle (Sully), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Tianja Grant (Providence), William Kogler (Springfield), Steven Lam (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Dr. Fatima Mirza (Dranesville), Adwoa Rey (Mt. Vernon), Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill), and Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock).

HSC Members Excused: Jeff Dannick (Braddock) and Christopher Falcon (Mason)

HSC Members Absent: Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill)

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for HHS), Pallas Washington (Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)), Kristen Brennan (NCS), Jessica Rhoades (NCS), and Viola Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council (HSC) Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Vice Chair Wang took attendance and made the requisite motions required for virtual meetings as part of Virginia FOIA compliance. Machowsky moved that each member's voice could be adequately heard by all participating members. It was seconded and carried.

Vice Chair Wang 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. Vice Chair Wang moved to approve conducting the meeting electronically. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Wang 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.

Approval of the Minutes: The May 16 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Foltz moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services Updates: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services (HHS), reminded the HSC of the Board memo (NIP) that was recently shared with them on the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program. Leonard noted that the County was able to keep up with rental needs for residents and their landlords. Fairfax County was one of two Virginia counties that administered its own rental assistance program due to the existing infrastructure already in place rather than participating in the state program. By the end of June, approximately \$69 million will be allocated in rental assistance. As of June 30, the ERA I and II programs will no longer be accepting applications because all funding will be exhausted. A request to the US Treasury for additional funds is in process. The County will begin accepting applications for the ERA Bridge Program on July 1, which will offer short-term assistance to eligible County residents while beginning to transition back to pre-COVID-19 basic needs assistance operations and funding levels.

Leonard encouraged the Council to view the [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\) Housing Committee meeting on June 14 \[view archived meeting video\]](#) where the Board discussed the ERA program, affordable housing, and homelessness. He also noted that the BOS Housing Committee meeting in November 2022 will focus on homelessness. Leonard announced that the next BOS HHS Committee meeting will take place on July 26; he will share the meeting agenda items at the July HSC meeting.

Communities of Opportunity, Inclusive Engagement Framework, and Placed-Based Initiatives Presentation:

Pallas Washington, deputy director of NCS, presented on Communities of Opportunity, the Inclusive Engagement Framework, and Placed-Based Initiatives. Kristen Brennan, prevention coordination specialist at NCS, presented on Opportunity Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Initiatives Program, and Community Schools.

Washington shared the importance of studying how residents of Fairfax County show up, how they are engaged, and what access they have to be part of the decision making for challenges, initiatives, and programs that affect and impact them. She shared a draft of the core principles of Fairfax County Engagement and discussed key components of inclusive engagement. Washington highlighted the “uneven opportunity landscape” in Fairfax County and reported how has intentionally created place-based initiatives along the darker blue areas to create more opportunities and reduce vulnerability. Washington reported there is a pilot in place, Community Plus, that provides a method of implementing communities of opportunity.

Kristen Brennan reported that Neighborhood Initiatives Program (NIP) is the strategy used to partner with nonprofits for place-based work around the County. Brennan reported that there are now five Opportunity Neighborhood sites around the County. She provided an example of Inclusive Community Engagement results and talked about initiatives planned for FY 2023 centered around four themes: career and asset development, community safety and security, enrichment for children, youth, and teens, and welcoming communities of services. She also shared information about Community Schools, which align existing resources, develop partnerships to address gaps and barriers, and engage the local community.

Washington and Brennan answered questions regarding program expansion (i.e., Centreville and Chantilly areas), data on the impact of vulnerability areas, incorporating capacity building, and how the Council members can assist with this work. There was also discussion on the Innovation Challenge and its relatedness to Targeted Interventions. Washington also shared the link for the [Vulnerability Index](#).

Member Sharing: There was discussion about the Innovation Challenge funding. Menapace announced the resignation of Council member Grant. She noted that the Council is not positioned yet to return in-person meetings yet due to various reasons, including the intricacies of having a hybrid meeting. Ganssle reported that the Health Care Advisory Board submitted a proposal to develop a medical detox and residential treatment center, which will be disseminated after the meeting.

Chair’s Report: Menapace reported that the Fairfax Food Council and the Community Provider Strategy Team is having a meeting to discuss the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. A survey will be part of the feedback to the upcoming conference.

Adjournment: Vice Chair Wang adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.