

Fairfax County Human Services Council
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024, 7 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 11

HSC Members Present: Jane Edmondson (Dranesville), Thomas Goodwin (Providence), Steven Lam (Springfield), Martin Machowsky (At-Large), Michele Menapace (Chair/Franconia), Dr. Gerald V. Poje (Hunter Mill), Maria Posey (Braddock), and Paul Thomas (Hunter Mill).

HSC Members Participating Remotely: Kevin Bell (At-Large) and Robert Faherty (Franconia) were unable to physically attend the meeting and participated virtually. Remote meeting attendees provided their locations and reason for needing to attend remotely.

HSC Members Excused: Barbara Broman (Mt. Vernon), Manolya Tanyu (Braddock), and Edward Yost (Sully).

HSC Members Absent: William Kogler (Springfield) and Michael Smith (Mt. Vernon).

Staff Present: Sarah Allen (Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)), Lesa-Kaye Boateng (One Fairfax), Karla Bruce (Chief Equity Officer), Jill Clark (NCS), Viola Coleman (NCS), Marijke Hannam (Family Services), Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services), and Lloyd Tucker (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The December 18, 2023, meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Poje moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion was carried.

Health and Human Services Monthly Update: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for HHS, reported that there will be a Board memo (i.e., NIP) sent tomorrow on the [Economic Mobility Pilot](#). He shared that the next BOS HHS Committee meeting will be held on January 30; presentations will include the Park Authority's equity plan, Community Schools, and rental assistance. He also noted that the FY 2025 advertised budget will be presented on February 20.

Economic Mobility Pilot Progress Update: Lesa-Kaye Boateng, One Fairfax Program and Partnership Director, and Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, provided background information and an implementation update on the [Fairfax County Economic Mobility Pilot](#). A demographic snapshot and testimonials from participants was presented, along with an overview of the research and evaluation component of the pilot. They reported on the expansion and sustainability strategies and then responded to questions from Council members. Leonard noted that they will be developing a framework for sustainability to present to the Board for consideration in the FY 2026 budget.

Legislative Update: Jill Clark, HHS Policy and Planning Manager, reminded the Council that during the General Assembly legislative session, the [BOS Legislative Committee](#) meets every Friday at 4 p.m. These [meetings](#) can be attended in person, watched via livestream, or viewed later online. Clark reported that specific bills that agencies have reviewed and identified whether the Board should support or oppose are addressed at these meetings. She shared that some of the major themes include K-12 education funding, early childhood, and behavioral health. Two issues getting significant attention are bills that would allow a casino in Fairfax County and a proposal to move the Washington Capitals and Wizards from DC to Alexandria. Clark also reported that some Virginia FOIA bills related to HSC's roles as a public body were under consideration, including increasing the percentage allowed for all-virtual meetings.

Chair's Items: Menapace reported that Thomas will be chairing the HSC Budget Committee with support from Faherty. At the February meeting, there will be a presentation on FY 2024 advertised budget and the HHS Boards, Authorities, and Commissions will be invited to attend. In addition, on Saturday, March 2, the HHS Partners Summit will take place with Faherty and Menapace as lead representatives on the planning committee. More details will be shared at the next meeting. Menapace also asked staff to circulate log-in information for the HSC's Partners Portal.

Election of New Vice Chair: Due to Alis Wang's resignation, an election for vice chair was conducted. Paul Thomas was unanimously elected to serve as vice chair.

Member Updates: Maria Posey reported that the [Child Care Advisory Council](#) is having discussions on Ready Regions quality measures and the [Advisory Social Services Board](#) discussed their strategic planning.

Marty Machowsky met with Supervisor Jimenez with the Mason District who is aware of two Mason District vacancies with the Council and what role it plays.

Thomas reported that the [Successful Children & Youth Policy Team](#) meeting focused on the equity impact plan. They are anticipating new School Board members to join the initiative. The next meeting will include a discussion on opioids and more discussions on the equity plan.

Poje reported that there was a retreat/full meeting of the [Affordable Housing Advisory Council](#) last month that focused on communications, production and preservation, legislative, and budget priorities. He noted the County broke ground last month for the affordable housing project at [The Exchange at Spring Hill Station](#). Leonard added that this project is a perfect model of what affordable housing should look like with its proximity to Metro and co-located with a community center.

Adjournment: Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes captured by Coleman.