

Fairfax County Human Services Council

May 16, 2026, 7 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Via Microsoft Teams [Meeting Link](#), Meeting ID: 245 383 737 548 910, and
Passcode: kj2Yb9u6; or Telephone +1 571-429-5982, with
Phone conference ID: 885 348 824#

HSC Members Present: Paul Thomas (Chair/Hunter Mill), Vice Chair Maria Posey (Braddock), Kevin Bell (At-Large), Barbara Broman (Mt. Vernon), Chris Clayton (Mason), Robert Faherty (Franconia), Tom Goodwin (At-Large), Steven Lam (Springfield), Michele Menapace (Franconia), and Manolya Tanyu (Braddock).

Excused HSC Members: Dee Dee Carter (Hunter Mill), Surayyah Colbert (Mt. Vernon), Jeffrey Hallet (Providence), Michael Redlich (Springfield), and Arthur Wu (Sully).

Staff Present: Chris Leonard (Deputy County Executive), Jill Clark (Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)), and Viola Coleman (NCS).

Call to Order: Human Services Council Chair Paul Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Thomas took attendance and made the requisite motions required for all-virtual meetings as part of Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) compliance. The live video and audio were publicly accessible by Microsoft Teams and phone. Thomas moved to approve conducting the meeting electronically. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Approval of the April Meeting Minutes: The April 13, 2026 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Michele Menapace moved to approve the minutes and was seconded. The motion carried.

Monthly HHS Update: Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services (HHS) reported that the Board of Supervisors recently adopted the FY 2027 budget, which includes several program restorations that were supported by the Human Services Council. He noted that despite more than \$50 million in HHS reductions over the past three years, the county is also making significant new investments, including \$17 million for affordable housing. He shared that the next Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on June 16 at 1:30 p.m., and will feature presentations on the [Beyond the Bell pilot](#) and an update on HR1 implementation. Leonard

also reminded the HSC about the recent NIPs on Fairfax County's participation in the statewide Homeless Data Integration Project and the release of the [Housing Needs Assessment \(PDF\)](#). In closing, Leonard announced he will retire on September 4 after 27 years with the county, with recruitment underway for his position.

Draft Charter: The Council held an in-depth discussion on the draft HSC charter that builds on last year's vision and mission work, including a strategic planning session where members collaboratively shaped and approved a draft framework. Vice Chair Posey walked through proposed expectations for member engagement, committee contributions, orientation for new members, and stronger communication with members of the Board of Supervisors. She emphasized that additional committee meetings could produce tangible outputs, such as issue summaries, testimony, briefs, or stakeholder engagement so the full Council gains visibility into topic-specific work like healthcare or food security. Members provided feedback with some expressing concern about engagement expectations and suggested that the final document serve both as an organizing tool and an orientation guide. The group acknowledged that the draft would undergo Office of the County Attorney review to ensure alignment with the Council's mandate, and next steps include refining the document based on the conversation, incorporating legal guidance, and returning with a streamlined version for further Council discussion.

Annual Adoption of the All-Virtual and Remote Participation Meeting Policies: The Council completed its annual adoption of the all-virtual and remote participation meeting policies. Chair Thomas noted that the policies largely formalize expectations already in practice and raised one clarification regarding the limit on virtual meetings, given the Council's 12-meeting annual schedule. With no other changes identified, Thomas motioned to approve the policies and was seconded. The motion carried.

Innovation Fund Proposals: The Council revisited the two food-related Innovation Fund proposals presented at the April 13 meeting and decided that additional clarification on the proposals is needed. Members discussed the relative impact, sustainability, and transformative potential of each idea. Menapace and Tom Goodwin will engage with the Food Council, and then return to the Council with a more informed recommendation.

Chair's Items: Chair Thomas reminded members to exercise great care and professionalism in all written communications related to the Council or county business, including emails, texts, or anything that could be subject to the Virginia Freedom of

Information Act (FOIA), emphasizing that anything they write should be fit for public display on the front page of a major news outlet.

Member Sharing: Thomas reported that he will attend the final [Successful Children & Youth Policy Team \(SCYPT\)](#) meeting of the 2025–2026 school year on May 20. He also announced that beginning next school year, Manolya Tanyu will take over his seat on SCYPT for the 2026–2027 school year. Menapace reported that the [Consolidated Community Funding Pool](#) is finalizing contract negotiations for recommended awards. She noted that the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee hosts public hearings before final recommendations go to the Board for every two-year funding cycle.

Adjournment: Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.