

CITY OF FAIRFAX HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2023

Attendance: Carolyn Sutterfield, Sandra Slappey, Suzanne Levy, Anita Light, Debbie DeFalco, Michael Borash, Frank Franz, Lesley Abashian(staff)

Absent: Andrew Wankum, Andre Lee. * Judith Turcott resigned her position on the Disability Services Board effective January 2023.

1. Recent City Election

Lesley reminded committee members the City has a new Mayor and 3 new City Council members who are currently settling into their new roles. They will need some and support from City staff and the community. Lesley requested Human Services Committee members sending specific requests to Mayor and Council that are linked to Human Services, that she get included in the email. Also discussed inviting Mayor and City Council to either the April or July meeting to provide an orientation of this committee. Sandra pointed out the importance of the committee having 2-3 priorities to present to Mayor and Councilmembers. Committee members will provide Lesley feedback before the next meeting.

2. Fairfax Village in the City Update

Anita, who serves both the LTCCC and as the Chair of the Village provided a Village update. Committee members were invited to the Fairfax Village in the City's "Home for Life Expo" on March 31 at the Sherwood Center. This event focuses on providing residents access to information related to successfully aging in place and will include both vendor tables and speakers. This event is being hosted in collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce.

3. Community Response Team Development

Lesley provided an update about the City's Community Response Team which includes CIT trained officers, a community paramedic and a community response clinician. The city is currently involved in the recruitment of the clinician. This team will be available for both crisis

response (coming through 911/988) along with targeted outreach with residents recently engaged in crisis response or identified as super-users of 911 system. The clinician will be supervised by the Director of Human Services, but the team is a collaboration between Police, Fire and Human Services. Lesley agreed to have the team present to this community as soon as it is fully implemented.

4. Women's History Month Event (March)

The City's Commission for Women will host an community presentation about the impacts of Title IX on March 12 from 2-4. This event is a part of the City's Women History Month celebration.

5. City Council Homelessness Taskforce Formation

Lesley reported that Councilwoman So Lim along with Mayor Read and Councilwoman Feingold are creating a City taskforce focused on community challenges, service gaps and needs, and potential solutions related to homelessness. The business community will be an important stakeholder this taskforce along with the nonprofits currently providing homeless services within the City. The taskforce is in the planning stages.

6. Committee Member Reports

Committee members provided their quarterly reports. Some highlights include:

- Frank discussed the Juvenile Court's concern that there is a lack of a youth detox program available locally. This concern was elevated after a recent incident where a youth overdosed in the court room along with based on the current "opioid crisis". Frank sent letters to both the City's Mayor and Council and the County's BOS requesting funding be included in the FY 24 budget to address this issue.
- Carolyn reported that the SHAPE survey continues to gather information related to the needs of older adults. Carolyn also expressed concern how the February changes to SNAP (food stamps) will impact families and older adults who have relied on the

increased monthly supplement amounts given during the height of the pandemic.

- Sandy reported that the CSB's workforce issues are "easing" while the Hospital bed crisis continues to impact the community. The CSB is releasing an RFP for service providers who treat youth with substance abuse disorders in an effort to address access issues.
- Suzanne stated that the Library continues to experience staffing issues which has impacted libraries' ability to go back to pre-pandemic operating hours. She also reminded committee members of the upcoming Book Sale.
- Anita talked about how current LTCCC leadership is working to ensure LTCCC meetings are more interactional. Currently the council has 40-55 members which can complicate engagement at meetings.
- Michael stated that ASAP is fully staffed after having staffing challenges during the pandemic. He reminded committee members that ASAP's program is for convicted drunk drivers.

Next Meeting Date: April 24, 2023, at 6:30pm