

MEETING MINUTES

Alexandria Community Services Board Meeting

4850 Mark Center Dr. Alexandria, VA

Conference Room #1301

April 4, 2024 – 6:30 pm

Members Present: Mary Lyman, Chair
Mary Catherine Gibbs, Vice Chair
Michele Walz
Marjorie Leong Greenberg
Luisa Lancetti
Ian Ring
Brian Marvin

Members Absent: Erica Hamilton (unexcused) Marybeth Plaskus (excused)
Abdulahi Abdalla (excused) Krista Oberlander (excused)

Staff: Phillip Caldwell, Center Director for Adult Services, DCHS
Chontelai Patterson-Mendi, Admin Operations Officer
Celestine Chew, Admin Support Supervisor

Ms. Lyman called the Board Meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

II. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of March 7, 2024, Board Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, seconded by Ms. Michele Walz, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 7, 2024, Board meeting.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mr. Phillip Caldwell briefed the Board members on the budget on behalf of Fiscal Officer Raphael Obenwa. He stated that historically City dollars have never been overspent. State and Federal money is spent before the City money is used. There was a spike in the budget due to overtime because of staff shortages and staff taking vacation (temps had to be hired). There is no capital outlay in the budget because the building is operated by General Services.
- Julie Jakopic, Chair of Sheltered Homes of Alexandria. Sheltered Homes of Alexandria is a nonprofit 501(c) organization. SHA provides housing to the Developmentally Delayed population to help them live a normal/independent life outside of living with a family member.
- SHA provides housing for 115 residents on 39 different properties. These properties include different types of housing from transitional to permanent. SHA focuses solely on the buildings and splits 50% of ownership with the city. Their goal is to have more independent living houses that are more like apartments than group homes.

IV. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS /CONCERNS

- Mr. Caldwell reported on the City Council budget work session held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, where CSB funding was discussed. Council members were very vocal about our staff recruitment and retention problem. Their comments reflected the Board's January letter reporting a vacancy rate of 20% to 21% for direct service positions such as DSP, Case Managers and Senior Therapists. The budget allows us funding for two outreach positions. An email was received from DBHDS stating that 35 units were approved for housing assistance. That will be over \$660,000. The Office of Housing will allow for three different positions. Two Youth positions advocated by the DCHS and the CSB, for Director of Residential Programs and a billing reimbursement position were approved and 100% state funded.
- The Marcus Alert funding was approved.
- The U.S. Secretary of State will visit DCHS. He is interested in seeing the MAT Program
- A plaque was given to former CSB Board member Henry Johnson for serving on the Board.

Adjournment

Having accomplished all items on the published agenda and on a motion by Ms. Mary Catherine Gibbs, and seconded by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, Ms. Lyman adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Celestine Chew