

MEETING MINUTES

Alexandria Community Services Board Meeting
4850 Mark Center Dr. Alexandria, VA
Conference Room #1301
September 5, 2024 – 6:30 pm

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

Members Absent: Abdulahi Abdalla (excused)
MaryBeth Plaskus (excused)

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

Ms. Lyman called the Board Meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

II. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of June 6, 2024, Board Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Mary Catherine Gibbs, seconded by Ms. Michele Walz, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 6, 2024, Board meeting.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Ms. Patterson-Mendie has edited Board Policy #5 to add language to virtual meetings. Virtual meetings will be done through Zoom. Board members attending on Zoom will not be counted as part of the Quorum unless the entire meeting is virtual. Ms. Lyman requested a motion for this policy to be approved and Ms. Michele Walz made the motion, seconded by Ms. Luisa Lancetti. All members approved
- Ms. Patterson -Mendie reviewed the Board survey from policy #5 and the responses from the Board members. There was 100% participation. The Board members like the program presentations. 14% like the reports they see and 14% like the information the director presents. They would like to see more program managers and more staff come to the meetings. Members

would like to have orientation packages, including more information on acronyms, and would like virtual attendance to be allowed.

- Board members stated they are learning and enjoying the educational experience.
- Board members would like to tour different programs.
- Mr. Phillip Caldwell informed the Board that September 25th is the Recovery Month celebration.
- Performance contracts and regional contracts are signed electronically by Phillip Caldwell
- Fairfax has a wellness crisis center and in April/May 2025 another crisis center for adults and children in Prince William County will be open. Alexandria will be contributing money and have access to the facilities
- \$900,000 has been received from the city for senior therapist positions, including hiring bonuses for some positions. Approximately 32 vacant therapist positions are waiting for pay compressing and to match salaries with other states. Money has also been received for staff development and training.
- \$200,000 was received from the state government for staff retention. We can now pay interns, and referral bonuses can be paid after 6 months.
- The Alexandria Community Shelter is now run by Carpenter's Shelter.
- Registration for the VACSB Public Policy Conference is closed. The next VACSB conference for Legislation Policy will be held in Richmond in January 2025. Please let Phillip Caldwell know in October if you plan to attend.

Adjournment

Having accomplished all items on the published agenda and on a motion by Ms. Michelle Walz and seconded by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, Ms. Lyman adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Celestine Chew