

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 18, 2021
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No _____

FROM: Kate Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler, Director, Center for Children and Families, DCHS
Chelsea Eickert, Children and Youth Master Plan Coordinator, DCHS

THROUGH: Clinton Page, Ed.S, Chief of Accountability and Research
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Endorsement of the Children and Youth Master Plan 2025 (CYMP 2025)

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- MTSS including Restorative Practices and PBIS
- Chronic Absenteeism among Hispanic Students
- Outreach to Hispanic Families to Improve Attendance and Graduation
- Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY:

This memo and attached materials provide the School Board with an overview of the new Children Youth Master Plan (CYMP) and how it connects to the ACPS Equity for All strategic plan and the Alexandria Health Department’s new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) through the Unified Planning process. After reviewing materials and having public dialogue the School Board will be asked to endorse the new CYMP in their next meeting. The City Council will also be going through a similar process in the coming weeks.

BACKGROUND:

The Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) developed the first Children and Youth Master Plan as the basis for the coordination, alignment and delivery of effective services to all city children and youth from birth to 21 years-old and their families. The outgoing

BOARD MEMO

plan established long-term, community-wide priorities for youth as well as the specific action steps necessary to realize those priorities. The goals of the plan were to ensure that all children and youth are healthy and safe, academically and vocationally prepared, and socially and civically connected. The CYMP 2025 builds upon the original Plan's foundation and progress while updating it for the future. This was accomplished through a collaborative effort whereby 2,100 community members, 88% of whom were youth, were engaged in workshops designed to craft a vision for the future and how it might be achieved.

Strategies for CYMP 2025 were assessed by The Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission, middle school students, and key stakeholders to meet specific criteria: (1) *Community Impact* - the strategy must make the biggest impact on the lives of youth; (2) *Feasibility* – there must be enough resources and capacity to implement the strategy right now; and (3) *Community Values* – the strategy must be consistent with our community values, meaning it must be equitable, trauma-informed, and builds assets.

The result of this effort maintains the original vision from 2014 - that all Alexandria's children and youth thrive today and tomorrow. However, the 2025 CYMP version reflects today's views on effectively arriving at that vision. These are:

1. All children, youth, and families are physically safe and healthy
2. All children and youth are academically successful and career ready
3. All children, youth, and families have positive experiences

Within each of these goals are strategies for mitigating the harmful effects of traumatic events – also known as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – and for building The 40 Developmental Assets® which are positive supports, relationships, and strengths that all young people need to succeed. In short, this Plan is focused on decreasing ACEs and increasing assets.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this information to inform future budgetary and programmatic decisions.

IMPACT:

Through collaborative efforts and unified planning ACPS, the City, Alexandria Health Department, and The Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria will for the first time implement aligned strategies to make collective change toward racial equity across the entire Alexandria community.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. PowerPoint - Unified Planning and CYMP Overview
2. CYMP 2025 Plan

CONTACT:

Clinton Page, clinton.page@acps.k12.va.us