

## MEETING MINUTES

Alexandria Community Services Board Meeting

4850 Mark Center Dr. Alexandria, VA

Conference Room #1301

February 1, 2024 – 6:30 pm

Members Present: Mary Lyman, Chair  
Mary Catherine Gibbs  
Michele Walz  
Krista Oberlander  
Brian Marvin  
Marybeth Plaskus  
Abdulahi Abdalla  
Erica Hamilton  
Luisa Lancetti  
Ian Ring

Members Absent: Marjorie Leong Greenberg (Excused)

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

Ms. Lyman called the Board Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

### I. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was one person from the public in attendance, who did not have any comments.

### II. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of January 4, 2024, Board Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, seconded by Ms. Mary Catherine Gibbs, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 4, 2024, Board meeting.
- Ms. Mary Catherine Gibbs, who had been nominated at the previous meeting, was elected as Vice Chair, on a motion by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, seconded by Abdulahi Abdalla and unanimously approved by the Board.

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mr. Michael Razak discussed the Marcus Alert. The Marcus Alert is to provide better responses and outcomes for individuals who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, particularly those that come through 911 calls. The program requires that police officers have CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) and mental health first aid training. The Marcus Alert is active in 40 states.

Staff in Alexandria at the call centers are being trained to make sure they dispatch the calls appropriately according to the level of the call.

#### IV. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS /CONCERNS

- Ms. Lyman and Ms. Lancetti shared their experiences at the VACSB Legislative Conference that was held in Richmond, VA.
- Ms. Lyman updated the Board about the letter that was sent to the Council requesting more money for competitive salaries. The Mayor and a City Council member responded positively to this request. The City Manager is preparing a budget note.
- Mr. Phillip Caldwell gave an update about contracts. The contract with Neighborhood health is in the process of being updated. It is currently expired. The effort to contract out Opioid Recovery has not been successful.

#### Adjournment

Having accomplished all items on the published agenda and on a motion by Ms. Michele Walz, and seconded by Mr. Brian Marvin, Ms. Lyman adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celestine Chew