

MEETING MINUTES

Alexandria Community Services Meeting
4850 Mark Center Dr. Alexandria, VA
Conference Room #1301
February 6, 2025 – 6:30 pm

Members Present: Mary Lyman, Chair
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Michele Walz
Ian Ring
Brian Marvin
Luisa Lancetti
Marjorie Leong Greenberg
Krista Oberlander
Lemuel Houston, Jr
Mouaad Jaani

Members Absent: Erica Hamilton (Unexcused)

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 6:45 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 9, 2025, Board Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Luisa Lancetti, seconded by Ms. Krista Oberlander, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 9, 2025, Board meeting.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mr. Caldwell introduced a new member of the Board, Mouaad Jaani. He is a Mental Health Advocate with a BS in Marketing. He is currently working with HIV issues with health insurance
- Annual Election for Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair, Mary Lyman, was nominated for re-election at the January 9th Board meeting. There were no other nominees for Chair. The Board voted unanimously to re-elect Ms. Lyman. There were two nominees for Vice Chair, Mary Catherine Gibbs, the incumbent and Marjorie Leong Greenberg. The Board voted by secret ballot and Ms. Gibbs was re-elected.
- Ms. Lyman and Ms. Greenberg both shared their experience at the Legislative Policy Conference that was held in Richmond, VA.

- Mr. Caldwell reminded the Board members not to discuss the board topics or concerns with 3 or more members. As under FOIA- it then becomes a public meeting.
- Mr. Caldwell shared that a long-term therapist who worked in substance use disorder passed away unexpectedly. A celebration of life will be held in her honor and hopefully clients will be able to attend.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS /CONCERNS

- Mr. Caldwell informed the Board that there are Vendor Contracts for Part C- toddlers, speech and physical therapy. No vendors contracts were terminated due to performance.
- With regard to concern over recent actions at the federal level, Mr. Caldwell stated that the CSB gets no direct federal grants and there are no operational changes at the State level, the CSB will continue to serve Alexandrians as usual.
- There is funding to hire Support Coordinators
- The INOVA Mental Health Institute plans to update their facility and add 130 beds. They are considering relocating the facility. In Region 2 we have SCOPE to work with MH people.
- The budget for FY 2026 to date will be available February 25. No service cuts are expected.
- Hiring is going well and there are fewer vacancies
- The Board members thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication to the clients we serve.
- The next VACSB conference will be held May 7-9 in Norfolk. If you are interested in attending, please let Celestine Chew know no later than March 15, 2025.

Adjournment

Having accomplished all items on the published agenda and on a motion by Mr. Ian Ring and, seconded by Ms. Mary Catherine Gibbs, Ms. Lyman adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Celestine Chew