



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Draft Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, October 9, 2025

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members In Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Chair
The Honorable Andrew Breton - Vice Chair
The Honorable Nicole Jones - Member

Staff in Attendance

Kiley Kesecker, Deputy City Clerk
Kimberly Morris, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
Will Perkins, Senior Council Legislative Services Manager
Candice Reid, City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Kimberly Morris provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Discussion Item(s)

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Updates

Jason Kamras, RPS Superintendent, provided the committee with an update regarding the results of the graduating class of 2025, support for multilingual learners, Standards of Learning (SOL) test results, and the collective bargaining resolution.

Chair Stephanie Lynch extended an invitation to Superintendent Kamras to participate in a legislative roundtable meeting with the Virginia General Assembly Richmond delegation, to discuss a joint advocacy plan with highlights on state funding on October 29, 2025.

Presentation(s)

Family Crisis Fund Update

Stan Southworth, President and Chief Executive Officer for Humankind, provided the committee with a presentation regarding Family Crisis Fund updates including a family crisis overview, payment activity, payment types, and client demographics.

[CD.2025.303](#) Family Crisis Fund Annual Report September 2024 – August 2025

Attachments: [RVA FCF Final 10062025](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Andrew Breton asked how creditors and vendors were paid, and if there had been difficulty helping anyone in need of assistance. He asked what the criteria were for applications, and how Family Crisis funds were used during the water crises.

Mr. Southworth stated that there was some difficulty with W-9 submissions from vendors, and that Humankind was working with other partners, like Dominion Energy and landlords of those who were facing evictions, to ensure funds would be available to assist. He further stated an applicant cannot exceed \$2,500.00 in assistance per calendar year. Mr. Southworth also stated applicants were allowed to use the Family Crisis Fund in conjunction with the Water Crisis Fund for assistance.

Vice Chair Nicole Jones asked for the next steps after an applicant receives assistance and how often an applicant could apply for the Family Crisis Fund.

Mr. Southworth stated the Family Crisis Fund supplies funds once per year, and that ongoing work was done by partner agencies.

Chair Stephanie Lynch suggested implementing a learning lab or module to give insight into the Family Crisis Fund. She stated it would be helpful to educate families, communities, and schools.

Discussion Item(s)

Update from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services

Amy Popovich, DCAO for Human Services, provided the committee with updates regarding the inclement weather shelter at the Salvation Army, the overflow shelter at CARITAS, the Office of Homeless Services and partnerships, federal shutdown impacts, and the gun violence prevention event.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board vacancies and applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2025.300](#) Education and Human Services Standing Committee Boards & Commissions Vacancy Report Thursday, October 9, 2025

Attachments: [20251009 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Nicole Jones moved to forward the following board appointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:
Anitra Rochelle Carter

Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board:
Laura Mallinak

Richmond Public Library Board:
Antione Green

Social Services Advisory Board:
Lisa Specter-Dunaway
Kenrick Cameron, Jr.

Vice Chair Nicole Jones moved to continue the following board appointment application to the January 8, 2026 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc.:
Vik Murthy

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2025-224](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Fiscal Agency Agreement between the City of Richmond and NextUp RVA for the purpose of authorizing NextUp RVA to act as a fiscal agent on behalf of the City to facilitate funding for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' 2025 CarMax Basketball Youth Development and Summer

Camp program.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2025-224](#)

Deborah Morton, Deputy Director with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance, stating that it would change the fiscal agent to NextUp RVA to support Pine Camp Arts and Community Center's youth basketball and summer camp program.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Nicole Jones asked who the previous fiscal agent was for the basketball program. She also asked if the program was specific to Pine Camp youth, and if an expansion to the Broad Rock Community Center was possible.

Ms. Morton stated Enrichmond was the previous fiscal agent for the basketball camp, which was for all youth in the city, and the main site was Pine Camp. She also stated some league games were held at Broad Rock facilities, and additional funding from a foundation grant could possibly be used to expand the camp to the Broad Rock facility.

Member Andrew Breton asked if there was any relation between NextUp RVA and the Positive Youth Development Fund.

Ms. Morton stated there was no relation between the entities.

There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Stephanie Lynch moved to forward ORD. 2025-224 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 3, Breton, Jones and Lynch. Noes, 0.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2025-R041](#) To approve the City of Richmond Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

Attachments: [Res. No. 2025-R041](#)

Shannon Paul, Deputy Director for the Department of Justice Services, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance. Ms. Paul stated that the proposed ordinance would continue to serve the youth in the community through early intervention, accountability, and rehabilitation.

[CD.2025.344](#) DJS Program Narrative

Attachments: [DJS Program Narrative](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked how many youth were being served in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act program.

Olivier Faye, Program and Operations Supervisor for the Department of Justice Services, gave projected statistics, and stated that the exact amount of youth participants currently in the program would have to be obtained by the department.

Chair Lynch stated that according to a Department of Juvenile Justice bill, a higher number of youth in diversion should qualify for a state match, and asked if the city utilizes the diversion program.

Ms. Paul confirmed that the city does use the diversion program.

Chair Lynch asked if convicted youth not in the diversion program would become incarcerated.

Ericka Wakefield, Program Supervisor for Youth Justice with the Department of Justice Services, stated the programs that were available without court involvement were the Youth Justice Leadership Program, Lift Messengers, and Youth Court.

Chair Lynch stated that according to the statistics that were presented, the program was not receiving many court cases, and asked if there were residential providers for the diversion program.

Ms. Paul stated they were willing to work to increase the number of cases for fiscal year 2027, and there were no residential providers for the program.

Chair Lynch requested data point cross system information involving the number of youth in the city that were in foster care to be presented at the November 13, 2025, Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting.

There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Stephanie Lynch moved to continue RES. 2025-R041 to the November 13, 2025 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 3, Breton, Jones and Lynch. Noes, 0.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of September 11, 2025, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2025.297](#) September 11, 2025 - Education & Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20250911EHS Minutes \(DRAFT\)](#)

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the October Education and Human Services Standing Committee staff report.

[CD.2025.314](#) Education & Human Services Standing Committee Staff Report October 9, 2025

Attachments: [October 9, 2025 EHS Committee Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.