



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, April 14, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Committee Member (Late arrival)
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Council President (Early departure)

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator
M. Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Member Katherine Jordan arrived at 2:14 p.m. and was seated.

Presentation(s)

Homeless Services Update and Shelter Closing Action Plan

Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director Sherrill Hampton provided information virtually regarding homeless services and shelter closings. Director Hampton stated that financial assistance through CARES Act and other COVID-19 related funding were no longer available. Ms. Hampton also stated that the report is a combination of information from HCD,

Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) and Homeward. Ms. Hampton noted that the CCC non-congregate shelter would be closing on Friday, April 22, 2022; however, it intends to reopen on Thursday, November 1, 2022. Ms. Hampton stated further that a cooperative agreement between the counties of Chesterfield and Henrico and the city, is being considered to purchase a hotel that would offer shelter for individuals in need.

Economic and Community Development Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Sharon Ebert informed the committee that the city has designated \$11,200,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the purchase of the hotel.

CCC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jay Brown stated that the census of the non-congregant shelter changes daily, referencing that on April 12th, there were 50 households using the shelter; however, on April 14th there were 34 households. Mr. Brown stated that the team at the non-congregant shelter has been working to move households out of the shelter and into permanent housing. CEO Brown reiterated that each household is registered in the coordinated entry system to confirm that each household has access to additional resources or support under the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC).

Ms. Hampton stated that homeless services coordination of the region is through GRCoC and many of the GRCoC partners are funded by the city; however, the city of Richmond does not provide homeless services.

Mr. Brown informed the committee that the non-congregant shelter is not funded by the city but the CCC, and that the shelter work to keep good relations with the city. CEO Brown also informed the committee that an average of 121 individuals use the inclement shelter facility nightly.

Director Hampton and CEO Brown responded to additional questions and comments of committee members.

Human Services Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Reginald Gordon responded to the point of entry inquiry for the homeless, stating individuals need to call the homeless connect line or GRCoC. Mr. Gordon also stated that once the resource center is activated at City Hall, the resource center will be the main source of contact for assistance.

Chair Stephanie Lynch voiced concerns regarding the closing of the non-congregant shelter coinciding with potential evictions of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) residents.

A copy of the following presentation has been filed.

[CD.2022.174](#) Homeless Services Update and Shelter Closing Plan

Attachments: [20220414 After Item - Homeless Services Update and Shelter Plan](#)

[20220414 After Item - A2 ATTACHMENT](#)

[20220414 After Item - B2 ATTACHMENT](#)

[20220414 After Item - C ATTACHMENT](#)

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Update

RRHA Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sheila Hill-Christian and RRHA Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO) Kenya Green, provided a brief presentation regarding an update of RRHA. Interim COO Green stated that RRHA currently has 429 vacancy units; however, 335 units are not available for lease due to demolition. Ms. Green also stated that several units are not available due to extensive repairs. Ms. Green noted that RRHA has 3,513 public housing units and 3,084 are leased. Ms. Green stated further that RRHA is a partner with the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) to manage the emergency housing waiting list vouchers. Ms. Green informed the committee that there has been a reduction in the number of families scheduled for eviction due to the rent relief program. Ms. Green stated that 324 applications are pending, approximately 600 families are awaiting residence submission and approximately 300 families have not been responsive to the rent relief program.

Interim CEO Hill-Christian and Interim COO Green responded to additional questions and statements of committee members.

A copy of the following presentation has been filed.

[CD.2022.170](#) Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Attachments: [20220414 RRHA Presentation](#)

Council President Cynthia Newbille departed at 3:57 p.m.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Board Vacancies

Boards and Commissions Administrator Jamie Isley reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Dr. John P. Lindstrom, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) addressed the committee regarding the current vacancies on the RBHA Board.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board reappointments and appointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority:
Scott Cannady (reappointment)
Karah Gunther (reappointment)
Jenny A. Aghomo
Tameisha Archer
Dana C. Sally Allen
Steven Willoughby (mayoral nominee)

A copy of the following report has been filed.

[CD.2022.169](#) Board Vacancy Report - Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Attachments: [20220414 - EHS - Quarterly Vacancy Report](#)

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, March 10, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.157](#) March 10, 2022 Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220310 - EHS Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.