



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Education & Human Services Standing Committee

May 14, 2026

Prep Document for Committee Members

Previous Meeting: April 9, 2026

Next Meeting: June 11, 2026

Legistar Link: [City of Richmond - Meeting of Education and Human Services Standing Committee on 5/14/2026 at 2:00 PM](#)

Presentations:

- [DNCS on Inclement Weather Shelter Review](#) –Alyson Saylors, DNCS Human Services Manager
- Future of Workforce Commission (FOWC) Update – Andreas Addison, Chair

Discussion Items

- RPS Updates: Jason Kamras, Superintendent
- DCAO HS Report: Amy Popovich, DCAO for Human Services

Outstanding Follow-Up Items/Reminders

- [none]

Next Meeting Preview (Thu, 6/11)

Presentations:

- DJS/OGVP on Juvenile Justice and Gun Violence Prevention

Papers for Consideration

1. [ORD. 2026-098](#): authorizes the City of Richmond to extend and amend its lease for approximately at 4100 Hull Street Road (Southside Community Services Center) for continued use by DNCS and other City agencies.

Potential Questions

- Given the 15-year lease extension, what long-term strategy does the City have for consolidating or relocating these services in the future, if any?
 - Since DSS has moved to 300 E. Franklin Street, how does the Administration envision the remaining space at Hull Street being utilized and is there a plan to sublease unused portions to offset costs?
2. [ORD. 2026-111](#): authorizes the City of Richmond to enter into its annual agreement with the Virginia Department of Health to fund and support public health services provided by the Richmond City Health Department, including a local contribution of approximately \$4.6 million already included in the FY26 budget.

Potential Questions

- How is the Health District prioritizing the use of these local funds to address current public health challenges?

Inclement Weather Shelter Review

Notes on Presentation:

Slide / Topic	Key Takeaways
Slides 1–2 – Purpose	Presentation reviews the City’s 2025–26 Inclement Weather Shelter (IWS) operations, shelter utilization, budget impacts, and winter storm response efforts.
Slides 5–6 – Shelter Operations	Salvation Army operated the primary IWS site (106 beds) from Nov. 15–Apr. 15. CARITAS Surge Shelter (60 beds) activated when IWS reached capacity and temperatures dropped below 40°.
Slide 6 – Shelter Usage	Average nightly usage: 96 IWS guests, 54 Surge guests, and 151 total guests served nightly across activated sites. Surge Shelter activated 87 nights.
Slide 7 – Family Shelter Response	OHS provided emergency hotel placements for 47 unhoused or at-risk households with children. Focus remained on prevention, diversion, and pathways to permanent housing.
Slides 8–9 – Winter Storm Response	During Winter Storms Fern & Gianna, the City activated additional emergency shelters and warming centers for 17 consecutive days . Partnerships included libraries, GRTC, DSS, OEM, community organizations, and faith-based partners.
Slide 11 – FY26 Budget Impacts	Actual sheltering costs exceeded planned investments by ~ \$586K , primarily due to expanded family sheltering, warming centers, and surge shelter operations.
Slides 13–15 – EHS Follow-Up Updates	City implemented additional shelter capacity, expanded coordination efforts, updated the OHS website, strengthened CRTC services, and increased partnerships with organizations like RBHA, YMCA, Truist, and Dominion Energy.
Slides 17–18 – Successes & Next Steps	Key successes included zero shelter turn-aways during winter storms , improved communication systems, and increased housing placements. Next steps include trauma-informed care training, updated homelessness planning, and adding outreach/operations staff.

Potential Questions:

- How did the FY26 IWS nightly averages compare to past years?
- On Slide 11, given the FY26 sheltering costs exceeded projections by nearly \$600K, what funding strategy is proposed to support similar emergency responses in FY27?
- What metrics does OHS use to measure whether emergency shelter placements are successfully transitioning individuals and families into permanent housing?
- Were there any operational challenges identified during Winter Storms Fern & Gianna that the City still needs to address before next winter season?

Future of Workforce Commission Overview

Notes on Presentation:

*Notes are based on [September 2025 Executive Summary](#). As of 5/13/2026, no presentation has been submitted.

Section	Key Takeaways
Purpose of Commission	Commission created to align education, workforce training, and industry needs to support Richmond’s economic development goals and create a cradle-to-career pipeline for RPS students.
Why This Matters	Richmond’s economy is growing in healthcare, trades, IT, logistics, and life sciences, but employers report ongoing workforce shortages while many students lack credentials and career exposure.
Key Findings	Major challenges identified include skills mismatches, low postsecondary completion, underutilized CTE/dual enrollment opportunities, fragmented partnerships, and equity gaps for Pell-eligible and underserved students.
Core Recommendations	Recommendations include expanding dual enrollment, increasing employer-led partnerships, creating a “Richmond Promise” scholarship, scaling internships/apprenticeships, and developing a workforce training hub at the Maury Street warehouse.
Existing Strengths	Commission emphasized Richmond already has strong foundations through Dreams4RPS 2.0, OCWB, CTE programs, and community partnerships, but efforts remain fragmented and lack visibility.
Next Steps	Commission plans to refine recommendations ahead of the October presentation, develop performance metrics, identify funding sources, and explore regional collaboration with neighboring localities.

Potential Questions:

- What governance structure does the Commission envision for managing the proposed public-private workforce partnership long-term?
- How will the Commission ensure equitable access to dual enrollment, internships, and scholarship opportunities for underserved and first-generation students?
- What estimated capital and operational investments would be required to transform the Maury Street warehouse into a workforce development hub?