


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JUNE 15, 2010

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION AND YOUTH POLICY COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A WORK GROUP TO STUDY THE REALIGNMENT OF YOUTH AND FAMILY-RELATED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

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**ISSUE:** Request from the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) and the Youth Policy Commission (YPC) to make recommendations to consolidate functions and realign youth-related City Council-appointed and City supported boards, commissions and committees (see the attached resolution).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That City Council:

- (1) Receive the resolution from ECC and YPC, and thank the members for their efforts; and
- (2) Establish jointly with the School Board a work group to make a proposal to City Council regarding the realignment of youth-related boards, commissions and committees.

**BACKGROUND:** The ECC and YPC each adopted the attached resolution recommending that City Council establish a work group to develop recommendations for realigning City boards, commissions, task forces and committees addressing youth-related issues. The resolution was adopted by ECC and YPC on March 1, 2010 and April 7, 2010, respectively.

ECC was established in June 1989 to develop an early childhood development plan for the City and to represent the interest of children prenatal to age eight. YPC was established to make recommendations to City Council on youth-related issues and on City policy for youth ages six through twenty-one. Consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the draft City Council Strategic Plan, the two Commissions believe that the interests of youth, prenatal to 21 years of age, would be best served by the development of a single group focused on the entire age and service continuum. The Commissions further recommend that the work group review other existing City Council-appointed and City supported committees, coalitions, task forces and other similar groups representing children and youth ages prenatal through 21 to determine how the work should be represented and aligned.

The concepts represented in the resolution have also been endorsed by the Alexandria City Public School Board and the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), which adopted the resolution with some minor modifications on May 13, 2010 and May 14, 2010,

respectively. The Alexandria School Board modified the resolution deleting the last half of the bullet in the Commissions' resolution, and added similar language to the third bullet (shown in italics), to read as follows:

- That the establishment of the new commission on children, youth and families would result in the dissolution of the Early Childhood Commission and the Youth Policy Commission ~~and other commissions, boards, committees, coalitions, or task forces representing children and youth ages prenatal through twenty one~~; and
- That the City Council and School Board jointly create a work group to make recommendations regarding details of the composition, governance, and focus of the new entity, including ensuring that the commission appropriately represents our community and includes members with expertise on issues affecting children and youth ages prenatal through twenty-one; *and, that this work group review existing committees, coalitions and task forces representing children and youth ages prenatal through twenty-one to determine how the work and expertise of these entities can be represented moving forward*; and

It was the consensus of the members of the two Commissions and the authors of the Commissions' resolution that the modifications did not alter the intent or purpose of the original resolution. Consequently, the language has been incorporated in the staff recommendations that follow. ECC's Chair also discussed the proposal with representatives and the designated staff member of the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force.

**DISCUSSION:** In response to the resolution developed by the Commissions, staff developed the following proposal for the work group's membership. Staff recommends that the work group be comprised of the following members.

- One member of the City Council
- One member of the School Board
- Chair, Early Childhood Commission or designee
- Chair, Youth Policy Commission or designee
- City Manager or senior level designee
- Superintendent of Schools or senior level designee
- Three citizens or community representatives, of which one should be a parent of a child under age twenty-one

If Council wishes to establish the work group, staff recommends that appointment authority be given to the Mayor and School Board Chair. Staff further recommends that the work group be established in June and complete their work by submitting their recommendation to City Council by November 2010.

- Appointment of the work group by City Council – June 2010
- Meetings, research, deliberations by work group – July to October 2010
- Submission of work group recommendations to City Council and School Board for consideration – November 2010
- Adoption of recommendations and establishment of new board or commission – December 2010

- Appointment of the new board/commission members – February 2010
- Initial meeting of new board/commission – March 2011

The work group would be tasked with developing recommendations for the establishment of a board or commission whose mission would be to advise the City on issues involving children, youth and families. Upon the review of other models, best practices, and the engagement of citizens and other key stakeholders, the work group would recommend to City Council the best structure for accomplishing this goal. The work group would review and make recommendations regarding the realignment or reconstitution of any other group addressing youth-related issues, whose mission or work may be impacted by any proposed entity.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT:** Resolution from the Early Childhood and Youth Policy Commissions

**STAFF:**

Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager

Ron Frazier, Director, Office of Youth Services/DHS

Rose Boyd, Citizen Assistance

Carol Farrell, Director, Office for Early Childhood Development

**Proposal to the Alexandria City Council and the School Board  
Alexandria Early Childhood Commission  
March 1, 2010  
And  
Youth Policy Commission  
April 7, 2010**

**Whereas, the Early Childhood Commission was created by the City of Alexandria in June 1989 to represent the interests of children ages prenatal to eight and the Youth Policy Commission in 1997 to represent interests of youth 6 through 21; and**

**Whereas, the governmental structure of the City of Alexandria actively depends on the input of citizen commissions, boards, and committees representing various public constituencies there remains a need for a commission that represents the interests of children prenatal to twenty-two; and**

**Whereas, there is a need for the alignment of all organizations working on children, youth and family issues; and**

**Whereas, future challenges for the City of Alexandria will require services to be efficient and effective in meeting the needs of our children; and**

**Whereas, with limited City of Alexandria resources, accountability in the use of all funding is imperative; and**

**Whereas, the new Alexandria City Public Schools' Strategic Plan defines a broader role for the school system with regard to children and youth; and**

**Whereas, the newly defined Goal #4 for the City of Alexandria speaks specifically to the alignment and integration of services over a continuum of ages prenatal through twenty-one;**


**Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the alignment of all groups into one body responsible for issues related to the continuum of services for children and youth prenatal through twenty-one would be the most efficient and effective structure.**

**The Early Childhood Commission and Youth Policy Commission hereby recommend the following:**

- **That the City Council and School Board jointly create a new commission on children, youth and families with a focus on ages prenatal through twenty-one; and**
- **That the City Council and School Board jointly create a work group to make recommendations regarding details of the composition, governance, and focus of the new entity, including ensuring that the commission appropriately represents our community and includes members with expertise on issues affecting children and youth ages prenatal through twenty-one; and**

- That the establishment of the new commission on children, youth and families would result in the dissolution of the Early Childhood Commission, the Youth Policy Commission and other commissions, boards, committees, coalitions, or task forces representing children and youth ages prenatal through twenty-one; and
- That in light of the dissolution of these bodies there be a re-examination of the Alexandria Fund for Human Services grant process.

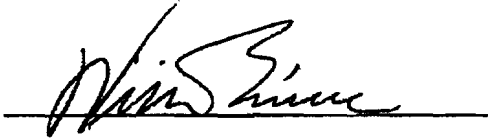
Approved by the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission on March 1, 2010



Sean McEneaney, Chair

4/19/2010  
Date

Approved by the Alexandria Youth Policy Commission on April 7, 2010.



The Honorable William D Euille, Chair

4/19/10  
Date

**Members of the Early Childhood Commission**

Samantha Adhoot  
Erwin Bondareff  
Debra Collins  
Cassandra Ford  
Sheryl Gorsuch  
Joanna Hemmat  
Susan Johnson  
Maureen Leary  
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Sarah Almy  
Bill Campbell  
Njeri Falcher  
Ariel Gonzalez  
Kris Clark  
Karen Hughes  
Pamela Kicak  
Sean McEneaney  
Sharon Shackelford  
Carol Farrell, City Staff

**Members of the Youth Policy Commission**

Michele Brandon  
Charlotte Clinger  
Chad Dickerson  
Shawn Fludd  
Joyce Jefferson

John Chapman  
Sarah Cunningham  
William Euille  
Constance Frogale  
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Richard Merritt  
Tammy Smith  
Ron Frazier, Staff**