

# Arlington Child & Youth Well-Being Plan Network

*Meeting #7, Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm-6:00pm, Virtual via Zoom*

[View meeting slide deck here.](#)

## **4:30pm: Youth Well-Being Network Vision Statement Updates**

The Arlington Children and Youth Well-Being Network meeting began with updates to the vision statement and community mapping efforts. Megan Judd, Public Engagement Specialist in the County Managers Office reported that feedback collection for the vision statement was nearly complete, with 142 online participants and 240 people attending community events providing input. The majority of respondents indicated the draft vision statement aligned well with their ideals for children and youth well-being. The team plans to compile and analyze all feedback for presentation to the Vision Sub-group for finalization. To attend the Vision Sub-group meeting, please complete the [doodle poll here](#) by 5pm, Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **4:35pm: Community Engagement Process Update (Impacted Community Mapping)**

Candice Lopez, Assistant Director at Dept. of Human Services, provided an update on the community engagement process for mapping impacted communities. They outlined the timeline for phases two, which will focus on youth, parents, caregivers, and phase three which will have an emphasis on service providers, and youth. Throughout all engagement, general community members will also be included through online forms and county wide pop-up events. The youth well-being team hopes to provide a more detailed plan at future meetings.

## **4:45 pm Realizing our Vision**

The majority of the meeting focused on small group discussions around realizing the youth well-being vision. Well-being plan staff explained the approach for realizing the vision, which involves identifying the conditions needed for youth well-being in Arlington based on research and community feedback. In addition to research, the team has conducted outreach with 1,100 people surveyed across various age groups. One participant recommended reaching out to civic groups and others agreed. One participant outlined three opportunities to highlight the work to the civic federation: an article for the March newsletter, inclusion in the Civic Federation's Arlington Neighborhood News Network (ANNE), and planning for next year's youth-focused session.

The group reviewed draft community attributes broken out into the six buckets outlined in the vision statement, including "safe, healthy, respected, and supported" and "sense of belonging and equitable opportunities," and prepared to break into groups to discuss specific attributes for early childhood, elementary, middle school, and high school age groups using an online tool called Padlet.

Staff shared the engagement feedback thus far which can be viewed on the [slide deck here](#). The discussion highlighted key priorities identified across various community engagement sessions, with safety, security, and mental health consistently ranking highest, though some specific needs varied by community.

### **5:05pm: Small Groups**

Participants broke out into small groups to discuss and refine a list of ideal community attributes towards youth well-being. Participants were directed to different rooms based on school levels (preschool, elementary, middle, and high school) to discuss specific categories. After the breakout sessions, participants returned to share their progress, with some groups completing more categories than others. Multiple participants suggested considering the family context when discussing youth well-being, emphasizing the importance of safety, love, and belonging within the home environment. The group agreed to continue refining the list in future meetings, with the Padlet link remaining open for additional comments. The Padlet can be accessed and updated here: [https://padlet.com/clopez1\\_43/realizing-our-vision-2q06barqltbux6ki](https://padlet.com/clopez1_43/realizing-our-vision-2q06barqltbux6ki)

The Groups will continue and complete the discussion at the April 28th meeting.

### **5:45pm: Closing**

When the group came back together, they discussed the role of families and caregivers in youth development, with participants agreeing that while families are important, they have limited control over family dynamics and should focus instead on areas where they can make direct impacts. The conversation highlighted the need for parent and caregiver training programs, particularly around skills like reading with children and understanding alphabets, as well as the importance of engaging supportive, affirming faith communities in youth wellbeing. The conversation ended with announcements about upcoming events, including a Keep Kids Learning event on Friday at 7pm and the Trans Youth Quilt unveiling on April 8th at the Central Library, with the next network meeting scheduled for April 28th.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, April 28th, 4:30pm-6:00pm, in person at Central Library. New members welcome; youth, parents, caregivers and services providers! Need an invite? [RSVP here to receive an invite](#).