

Arlington Child & Youth Well-Being Plan Network

Meeting #8, Tuesday, April 28th, 4:30pm-6:00pm, In-Person at Arlington Central Library

4:30pm: Youth Well-Being Introductions and Icebreaker

The Arlington Children and Youth Well-Being Network meeting began with introductions of all in attendance and an icebreaker led by Patrick Leonard, Teen Services Lead at Department of Parks and Recreation.

Candice Lopez, Assistant Director at Department of Human Services, provided an updated overview of the planning timeline and review of the agenda.

5:05 pm: Vision Statement Updates

Elizabeth Matlock, Assistant to the Deputy County Managers and Megan Judd, Engagement Specialist in the County Managers Office shared feedback and follow-up on the vision statement. Engagement was robust and the presentation highlighted that:

- **65 days of public comment and events** between **January 22 and March 27**.
- **13 in-person events attended**, strategically distributed across the county to meet youth and their families where they are.
- **7 listening sessions** with youth groups including affordable housing after-school programs to better understand the youth experience in Arlington.
- **568 total community members engaged** through online communications, listening sessions, community outreach, and pop-ups.
 - *** 75% (or 426 community members) participated IN-PERSON.**
- **216 comments collected** through online feedback and in-person dialogue, allowing community members to share their ideal vision for Arlington youth.
- Diverse representation with **13% Spanish language engagement**.

Overall, most community members felt the draft statement aligned with their vision for Arlington. A few consistent suggestions provided support for a slightly updated draft. Based on feedback staff shared and updated vision statement to the Network. The final vision statement for the Children & Well-being Plan is below with the updated underlined:

Arlington is a community where all children and youth feel safe, supported, respected, and healthy with a strong sense of belonging and equitable access to opportunities and services.

Review all of the feedback and the process for creating the visions statement here: [CYWB Vision Statement Engagement Summary](#)

5:10 pm Realizing our Vision (continued from March Meeting)

The majority of the meeting focused on continuing small group discussions around realizing the youth well-being plan vision. Well-being plan staff explained the approach for realizing the vision, which involves identifying the community 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.

The groups reviewed draft community conditions divided into the vision topics, including "safe, healthy, respected, and supported" and "sense of belonging and equitable opportunities and services." Groups discussed these conditions in the context of specific age groups: early childhood, elementary, middle school, and high school age groups; building on their discussions from the March meeting.

The discussions 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.

After the groups completed their discussions, they were given the opportunity to share with the larger group. The Early Childhood group continued to emphasize the family context when discussing youth well-being, highlighting the importance of safety, love, and belonging within the home environment.

The next step is to finalize the community conditions and identify specific indicators.

- Community Conditions: The Arlington we want to create to realize our vision.
- Indicators: How we know we've created the right conditions for youth to thrive.
 - Example: Youth will feel Safe. (Safety and Security Domain)
 - Youth experience connected, nonviolent communities (community condition)→ Youth report low rates of peer bullying (indicator)

Indicators for community conditions are from:

- [America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-being, 2023](#), Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics
- [Using the Protective and Promotive Factors to support Youth Well-being, 2021](#), Center for the Study of Social Policy
- [ACE's \(Adverse Childhood Experiences\) Risk and Protective Factors, 2024](#), Centers for Disease Control
- [Guidance for Countries to Assess Adolescent Health and Well-being, 2025](#), World Health Organization
- [Adolescent Well-being: A definition and Conceptual Framework, 2020](#), Journal of Adolescence Health
- Arlington Community (attributes as defined by the Network and Community Engagement Efforts- WBN)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19th

Tuesday, May 19th, 4:30pm-6:00pm, via Zoom. New members welcome; youth, parents, caregivers and services providers! Need an invite? [RSVP here to receive an invite.](#)