The Council meeting was called to order at 2:04pm by Crystal Porter at the Denver Human Services (DHS) Castro location, 1200 Federal Blvd. Denver, Colorado, on behalf of the Council.

Introductions

The meeting opened with a brief welcome by Crystal Porter. The Council members and staff introduced themselves to the room and it was noted that the CCB Delegate member, Jennifer Beck, is a non-voting member. Crystal Porter spoke about the primary goal of the Council, which is to make recommendations to the DHS Executive Director on needs that DHS could potentially address with the dedicated mill levy dollars.

Information was shared on how members of the public can continue to stay up to date with the Council moving forward, via the Council page on the DHS website.
Activity to set values

Through a group exercise, the Council arrived at consensus on 4 guiding values:

- Courage
- Loyalty
- Empowerment
- Sustainability

The Council made it clear that they strive to build faith, trust, and hope with the Denver community.

Governance and housekeeping

The Council agreed to tweak the agenda to vote on the Council Co-chairpersons and the CAC Member first, and then to discuss the bylaws.

Co-chairpersons

- Ann Pierce, Betty Lehman, and J.J. Tomash were nominated as co-chairs
- In a blind vote, the Council elected Ann Pierce and J.J. Tomash as the new co-chairs
- Co-chairs are leading the Council going forward

At this point, the meeting turned over from Crystal Porter to the co-chairpersons to lead the meeting.

Community Advisory Council “CAC” Member

- Tim Lomas and Lauren Weinstock were both interested in joining the RMHS CAC.
- Instead of a vote, Lauren chose to serve as a back up to Tim Lomas for meetings he cannot attend, where she will sit in as a member of the public.
- Tim Lomas was confirmed as the Council’s cross-seated CAC Member.

Bylaws

- The Council submitted notes and comments on proposed bylaws, compiled by DHS staff for review at the meeting.
- The Council members discussed potential changes with Crystal Porter and Amy Packer facilitating. DHS staff will edit and send the proposed bylaws back out to Council members for review ahead of the next meeting.

Discussion

Co-chairperson Ann Pierce led discussion on what barriers and gaps exist in current services.
• The Council restated the “Big 5” needs identified in the Needs Assessment, which are: affordable housing, obtaining employment, transition to adulthood, the waitlist, and adequate mental health services.

• There was conversation from various members about how difficult it can be to find services and navigate the system. Some members believe this could be an immediate area of focus for the Council to consider for recommendation.

• The Council would like to dig in to the Needs Assessment spending recommendations, including the “Big 5.” It was suggested that the Council explore different formats, including bringing in experts in each field as well as persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and other members of the community to help the Council make informed recommendations.

• DHS clarified that the Council is not limited to exploring the projects suggested through DHS’ 2018 Request for Information (RFI), which yielded 13 proposals- an overview of these responses is available online. They are also not limited to recommending only one area of need.

Timelines and next steps
Crystal Porter briefly touched on timelines for next steps from the Council and setting goals for deadlines to work back from. More time will be devoted to hammering this out at future meetings.

Council recommendations do not have to be incredibly detailed or specific but can include high level ideas on what it might look like. DHS proposes 2 recommendations cycles for 2019- the first would be ideas geared towards an immediate impact in Spring 2019 while the Council continues to explore larger scale areas of need to make recommendations for Fall 2019.

The Council is interested in meeting frequently until at least one set of recommendations is out.

Public comment (2 minutes per speaker, up to 20 minutes)
Co-chair Ann Pierce recognized members of the public for comment and called on each person who signed up, before opening it up to anyone else in the remaining minutes. Five public comments were made—four comments came from various professionals who work for community providers. Each commenter shared a little about their current work and how that work might meet a need through the mill levy funding. The final commenter works with the mill levy dollars for another county and commended the council members and DHS staff on the work done in the first meeting.

After the public comment period, Kate Williams motioned to end the meeting and Betty Lehman seconded. The Council meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.