



City Council

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 - 6:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Martinsville Municipal Building

55 W Church St. Martinsville, VA

AGENDA

Work Session - 6pm, Council Chambers

Work Sessions are open to the Public.

1. Briefings and Presentations

- a. Update on Opioid Abatement Authority Funds and Engagement

2. Discuss Consent Agenda Items

- a. Discuss and Consider March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- b. Discuss and Consider March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Regular Session - 7pm, Council Chambers

3. Call to Order

4. Pledge to the American Flag

5. Invocation

6. Presentations and Proclamations

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- b. Discuss and Consider March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

8. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. Discuss and Consider Setting a Budget Public Hearing Dates for May 8th, first reading, and May 20th, second reading
- b. Discuss and Consider Setting a Public Hearing Date of May 13th, 2025 for Real Estate Tax Rate Decrease

- c. Discuss and Consider Resolution requesting to apply for Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Individual Distribution and Gold Standard funds
- d. Discuss and Consider a Resolution of participation for Pre-65 Retirees in the Health insurance plan
- e. Receive a Presentation of the City's Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

9. Take any action necessary as a result of the Executive Session.

10. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor

Description: The purpose of City Council Meetings is to conduct the City's Business. City Council allows for public comment, limited to matters on which the Council has the power and authority to act and are not listed on the printed agenda. Participation: Citizens who wish to participate in a meeting's public comment period may do so by signing up at the podium at the entrance prior to the beginning of the meeting, emailing their comments to Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk, at pnibblett@martinsvilleva.gov, calling in their comments to 276-403-5196, or mailing comments to the City of Martinsville, attn.: Peyton Nibblett, Martinsville, VA 24114 (a.) Comments, or a request to speak, must be received by noon the day before a Council meeting for consideration by the Council at the meeting. (b.) Any person submitting comments or requesting to speak must identify themselves by name and address, including zip code. (c.) Remarks are to be limited to 3 minutes or less (as read aloud), address a topic of City business, and refrain from making any personal references or accusations of a factually false and/or malicious nature. (d.) Priority for comments is given to City residents, taxpayers, and business owners. (e.) Speakers may not yield time. f. Groups of speakers on the same topic must designate a single representative. Comments violating these rules may not be presented at the Council meeting. (g.) Any speaker violating these rules may be removed from the podium or from the Council Chamber. (h.) This policy does not apply to public hearings, at which any citizen of Martinsville may appear and speak on the subject of the public hearing.

11. City Hall Reporting & Announcements

- a. Public Information

12. Comments by Members of City Council

13. Comments from City Manager

14. Adjournment



Item: 1.a.

ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Eric Payne, Managing Director of Community Development

Subject: Update on Opioid Abatement Authority Funds and Engagement

Department/Office: Community Development

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Briefing on Opioid Abatement Authority Funds

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None



ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From:

Subject: Discuss and Consider March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

City Council must approve meeting minutes before they are added to official City records.

Recommended Action:

1. City Council Approve
2. City Council Do Not Approve
3. Other Action as Determined by Council

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. March 17 2025 Meeting Minutes (1)



March 17, 2025

Martinsville City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes

5:00 pm - Closed, Executive Session Meeting

Room 208, Municipal Building

A Special Called, Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's Council, was posted on March 13, 2025 and held on March 17, 2025, at 5:00 PM in Conference Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Julian Mei, Rayshaun Gravely, and Mayor Jones. Council Member, Aaron Rawls was absent. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00 PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Council Member Lawson and seconded by Council Member Mei and adopted with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Council Member Mei, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Gravely, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. 2.2-3711 A (1) Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; In regards to the City Manager and City Attorney position.



Certification of Closed Session

Motioned by Lawson and seconded by Mei, that the City Council certify that only those matters permitted by the Code of Virginia Sec. 2.2-3711 and specifically referenced in the motion to enter closed session were discussed during the closed session.

Approved with the following 4-0 vote: Councilman Gravely, aye; Councilman Mei, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.

Action taken as a result of Closed Session; Council reported out a decision by Council to offer the City Manager a 15% increase to her total compensation based on the October 8, 2024, performance assessment. There was much deliberation; the original motion made by Kathy Lawson failed due to lack of a second. Council discussed the phrasal of the motion and once they reached an agreement, the motion was made by Councilman Mei authorizing Mayor Jones to complete the negotiations with the City Manager and Human Resources, the motion was then seconded by Vice Mayor Lawson. Approved with the following vote: Councilman Gravely, aye; Councilman Mei, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye. Councilman Rawls was absent from the meeting. Approved with a 4:0 Vote with 1 Absent.

Mayor motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.



ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk

Subject: Discuss and Consider March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

City Council must approve meeting minutes before they are added to official City records.

Recommended Action:

1. City Council Approve
2. City Council Do Not Approve
3. Other Action as Determined by Council

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. Minutes March 25th 2025 (1)



March 25, 2025
Martinsville City Council Meeting Minutes

5:00 pm - Closed, Executive Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

All members were in attendance.

A Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's Council, was held on March 25th, 2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Councilman, Julian Mei; Councilman, Rayshaun Gravely; Councilman, Aaron Rawls, and Mayor Jones. Staff present included City Manager, Aretha Ferrell-Benavides; Assistant to the City Manager, Peyton Nibblett; Interim Managing Director of Development, Eric Payne; Managing Director of Public Works, Greg Maggard; and Water Resources Director, Mandy Muse. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00 PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Gravely with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Councilman Mei, Aye; Councilman Rawls, aye; Councilman Gravely, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.

Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. Discussion of possible Commonwealth Boulevard Waterline Extension.
- b. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Discussion concerning Possible Commonwealth Boulevard Waterline Extension.
- c. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against
- d. a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is



- e. in attendance or is consulted on a matter. Discussion concerning relocation options.

Certification of Closed Session

At 6PM, Vice Mayor Lawson motioned to adjourn the closed session and seconded by Councilor Mei that the City Council certify that only those matters permitted by the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 were discussed and specifically referenced in the motion to enter closed session were discussed during the closed session. Carried 5-0-0 by roll call vote: Ayes: Councilman Gravely, Councilman Mei, Councilman Rawls, Vice Mayor Lawson, Mayor Jones.

6:00 PM - Work Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

All members were in attendance.

1. Briefings and Presentations
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Kick-Off by the Berkley Group
2. Discuss Consent Agenda Items
 - a. Discuss and Consider Approval of March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM - Regular Session

Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building

3. Call to Order
4. Pledge to American Flag
5. Invocation
 - a. Reverend Hagwood
6. Presentations and Proclamations
 - a. Proclamation Honoring Martinsville Middle School Boys' Basketball Team on Championship Win
 - b. Proclamation Honoring Martinsville Middle School Girls' Basketball Team on Championship Win
 - c. Proclamation Honoring Martinsville High School Swim Team's State Champion



- d. Proclamation Honoring April as being Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - i. Presented to CASA Director
- e. First Quarter Community Voice Survey Presentation
 - i. Briefing of Community Voice Survey launched earlier in the year, gave updates on City alignment with Community Values and priorities.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider Approval of March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Consent Agenda Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Gravely. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.

8. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. Discuss and Consider Approval of Revenue Loss Designation of ARPA Funds
 - i. Presented by Chief Operating Officer, Edena Reese-Atmore. City Council considered redesignating approved ARPA projects as Revenue Loss Replacements to facilitate project completions and reporting requirements to the Treasury. Staff will complete the compliance reporting to the Treasury. Allows for the safe and timely completion of projects.
 - ii. Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Gravely. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.



- b. Discuss and Consider Budget Calendar
 - i. Presented by Budget Administrator, Robert Floyd. An overview of the Budget Calendar to date.
- c. Discuss and Consider Adopting a Reimbursement Resolution for Financing of Capital Equipment Replacement Expenditure
 - i. Presented by Chief Operating Officer, Edena Reese-Atmore. Council considered approving a reimbursement resolution to reimburse itself from the tax-exempt financing process. May 8th is anticipated to be the closing date for the transfer of financing process. The financing funds will be used to reimburse the city for purchases of the listed equipment.
 - ii. Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Mei. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.
- d. Discuss and Consider Appropriation of funds for 2025 Reassessment Consulting Services- Commissioner of Revenue
 - i. Presented by Robert Floyd, Director of Budget and Procurement, incomplete project requiring the appropriation of current funds to pay out the remaining contract.
 - ii. Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Mei. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.



- e. Discuss and Consider Approval of Resolution Requesting for Joint Application to Opioid Abatement Authority Application to use Individual DIstribution and/or gold standard funds to support a kinship navigator serving City of Martinsville and Henry County
 - i. Presented by Amy Rice Director of the Department of Social Services and Eric Payne, Interim Managing Director of Development. HMDSS requests an Opioid Abatement funding consideration for a Kinship Navigator. Staff to research the prior commitment to funding Drug Court before committing to funds.
 - ii. Tabled until April 1, 2025 to allow staff to gather more information.
 - f. Discuss and Consider, Briefing on an ordinance amending Martinsville City Code, to amend exemptions for real property taxes.
 - i. Presented by Assistant to the City Manager & Deputy City Clerk, Peyton Nibblett and City Manager, Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides. Presentation included options to assist seniors and elderly with real estate tax burden that will be brought back at the next meeting.
9. Take any action necessary as a result of the Executive session.
10. City Hall Reporting and Announcements
- a. Human Resources Update
 - i. Presented by Travis Hodge, Managing Director of Administration. City of Martinsville Human Resources Overview of Mission, Team, Key Services, and Demographics.
 - b. Finance Update
 - i. Given by Edena Reese-Atmore, Chief Operating Officer. Overview of General Fund, Sales Tax, Major Enterprise Funds (Electric, Water & Sewer, Telcom & MiNet, Refuse Fund)
 - c. Public Information Update



11. Business From the Floor
 - a. Caleb Robertson
 - b. Jean Hairston
 - c. Charisse Hariston
 - d. Jerelle Carter
 - e. Johnny Robertson
 - f. Rico Johnson
12. Comments by Members of Council
13. Comments by City Manager
14. Adjournment
 - a. Mayor Jones made the motion to adjourn at 9:30 PM.



Item: 7.a.

ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From:

Subject: Discuss and Consider March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None



ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From:

Subject: Discuss and Consider March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None



Item: 8.a.

ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From:

Subject: Discuss and Consider Setting a Budget Public Hearing Dates for May 8th, first reading, and May 20th, second reading

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None



Item: 8.b.

ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, City Manager, Robert Floyd, Budget Administrator

Subject: Discuss and Consider Setting a Public Hearing Date of May 13th, 2025 for Real Estate Tax Rate Decrease

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Proposal of an ordinance reducing current tax rate from \$0.99 to \$0.82, increasing income level from current maximum coverage of 27,500 or less to 47,500 or less, and increasing our current \$400 relief cap to a \$700 relief cap.

Recommended Action:

1. City Council Set the Public Hearing Date
2. City Council Do Not Set the Public Hearing Date
3. Other Action as Determined by Council

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None



ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Eric Payne, Managing Director of Community Development, Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist

Subject: Discuss and Consider Resolution requesting to apply for Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Individual Distribution and Gold Standard funds

Department/Office: Community Development

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Tabled from Previous Meeting

Staff is requesting approval from City Council to use individual distribution and gold standard funds from the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) to fund a kinship navigator position for three (3) years at the Department of Social Services. Funding of this position will be in partnership with Henry County, with the position to serve both Martinsville and Henry County. The total cost of the program is estimated to be \$254,932, with the City responsible for \$84,892 of the total. The city portion that we will be applying for is \$84,892, with the county applying to fund the remaining cost of \$170,040. This application is due April 1, 2025.

Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services (HMDSS) requests an Opioid Abatement funding consideration for a new Kinship Navigator Family Services Specialist IV (FSS IV) position. This specialist will assist kinship caregivers navigate services and strong connection to community supports to sustain permanency of children; therefore, creating a more stable environment and mitigating the risk of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) among youth in foster care. The navigator will be skilled in substance-use prevention, substance use identification, and recovery support with aftercare.

The total cost of the program is estimated to be \$254,932, with \$84,892 of the total being allocated from Martinsville's share of grant funds to be received from the Opioid Abatement Authority; no local funding required.

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. OAA Resolution_Revised_032625_Hannah Powell
2. HMDSS Kinship Navigator Proposal_Hannah Powell
3. Family_Services_Specialist_IV_State Occupatio_Hannah Powell
4. OAAdirectdistributioninfoGoldStandards_Hannah Powell

Resolution _____

A RESOLUTION relating to the Opioid Abatement Authority Kinship Navigator Position; Staff is requesting approval from City Council to use individual distribution and gold standard funds from the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) to fund a kinship navigator position for three (3) years at the Department of Social Services. This will be a joint request with the County of Henry. The total cost of the program is estimated to be \$254,932, with the City responsible for \$84,892 of the total.

WHEREAS, the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is providing an opportunity for funding to support a Kinship Navigator Position at the Department of Social Services (DSS), and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Abatement Authority will provide funding from the available Individual Distribution and Gold Standard funds, and

WHEREAS, the County of Henry is in support of using individual distribution funding, in partnership with the City of Martinsville, to fund the Kinship Navigator Position at DSS, and

WHEREAS, no local funds will be used for this project, and all funding will come directly from the individual distribution for each locality, and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the program is estimated to be \$254,932, with \$ 84,892 of the total being allocated from Martinsville's share of grant funds to be received from the Opioid Abatement Authority, and

WHEREAS, the Kinship Navigator Position at DSS will provide services to both the City of Martinsville and the County of Henry for three (3) years.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE:

Be it hereby resolved, that the City of Martinsville is in accordance with pursuing Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Individual Distribution funds and Gold Standard funds, in partnership with the County of Henry, to fund a Kinship Navigator position at the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide services for both the city and county for a total of three (3) years.

**Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services
Opioid Abatement Proposal for
Kinship Navigator Family Services Specialist IV Position
January 22, 2025**

Grant Type: Individual Distribution

Application Type: New

Category: Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, Justice Involved

Requested FY2025 Amount Individual Distribution: New Award \$84,892

Total FY2025 Recommended: New Award \$84,892

Project Title: Kinship Navigator

Long-Term Sustainability: Considering the time to hire, train, and collect outcome data, Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services would anticipate presenting positive, impactful data to the Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Martinsville City Council for full funding as soon as FY28.

Project Description: This grant will be used to hire and retain a Family Services Specialist IV to work within Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services.

Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services (HMDSS) requests an Opioid Abatement funding consideration for a new Kinship Navigator Family Services Specialist IV (FSS IV) position. This specialist will assist kinship caregivers navigate services and strong connection to community supports to sustain permanency of children; therefore, creating a more stable environment and mitigating the risk of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) among youth in foster care. The navigator will be skilled in substance use prevention, substance use identification, and recovery support with aftercare.

Supporting Data

Children in foster care and emancipated youth experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at a rate that is double that of war veterans. *2005 Harvard Medical School Study*

The National Foster Youth Institute reports the following foster care data points. One out of every four youth in foster care will become homeless within four years of aging out of foster care. Only 50% of foster youth finish high school. High school dropout rates are three times higher for foster youth than low-income children. It is estimated that a quarter of foster youth will be involved with the criminal justice system within two years of transitioning out of child welfare. Sixty percent of all child sex trafficking victims have histories in the child welfare system. On average, four out of every five children and adolescents enter foster care with serious mental health issues.

Foster youth are at a significant risk for using substances due to familial abuse and/or neglect and significant trauma. Studies show substance use among foster youth at rates similar to or higher than their peers who are not in care. They also tend to use substances earlier than their peers who are not in care. This places them at a higher risk of developing an SUD.

Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services
Opioid Abatement Proposal for
Kinship Navigator Family Services Specialist IV Position
January 22, 2025

Factors affecting an individual's likelihood for developing an SUD include biology or genetics (e.g., presence of a mental health issue) and their environment (e.g., peer pressure, family circumstances, exposure to stress) (NIDA, 2018b). This includes experiencing adverse childhood experiences, which can lead to substance use among youth, including earlier initiation of use (Duke, 2018). [Preventing, Identifying, and Treating Substance Use Among Youth in Foster Care](#)

Of the children who entered foster care nationally in 2020, the majority had a reason for removal that included neglect (either alone—25.6 percent— or in combination with another reason other than physical or sexual abuse—30.3 percent). Physical or sexual abuse (alone) accounted for 16.0 percent of the removals, and drug abuse (alone) accounted for 8.5 percent. Removal reasons involving child behavior problems and caretaker's inability to cope accounted for 4.0 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.

Circumstances associated with removal: The majority of children who entered foster care in 2020 had a reason for removal that included neglect (either alone—25.6 percent— or in combination with another reason other than physical or sexual abuse—30.3 percent). Nearly one-tenth (8.5 percent) of children entering care were reported with parental drug use as the only reason associated with removal. Sexual or physical abuse accounted for 16.0 percent of removals, and child behavior problems (alone) and caretaker's inability to cope (alone) accounted for 4.0 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively, of removals. [Child Welfare Outcomes 2020: Report to Congress](#)

HMDSS Foster Care Statistics as of 12/2/2024

The agency maintains custody of ninety-two children in foster care. Fifty-six (61%) of those children entered care due to Substance Use/Abuse. Kinship families account for 12% of the placements with 88% remaining in out-of-family foster care placements.

HMDSS Family Preservation Statistics as of 12/2/2024

The Family Preservation Unit has 48 families receiving services. Of those 48 cases, 40% have SUD as a primary issue. There are 17 (35%) families receiving kinship diversion services where the child is placed outside of the home. Of those cases, 29% of those primary caregivers have SUD as the prevalent issue.

Data informs us that when placed with biological relatives or fictive kin which include friends, teachers, etc. children experience less trauma, fewer placement changes, and better outcomes. According to a 2020 Annie E. Casey Foundation report, children placed in kinship placements tend to have less school disruptions, are less likely to experience behavioral and mental health problems, lower rates of re-abuse, and more likely to stay with their siblings. [Family First Virginia](#)

Often kinship caregivers experience challenges, including but not limited to, adequate housing, financial difficulties, emotional stress, and limited peer support.

Successful Kinship Navigator programs provide continued support to the kinship caregivers and child. Kinship Navigator programs help maintain permanency by assisting kinship families with

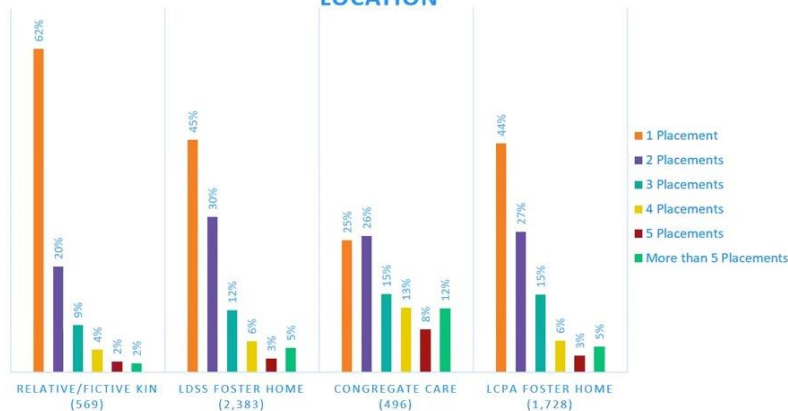
Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services Opioid Abatement Proposal for Kinship Navigator Family Services Specialist IV Position January 22, 2025

understanding financial resources and connecting to community supports which can often prove difficult without caseworker support.

As shown in the table below, children placed with a relative or fictive kin experience fewer placement changes than children placed in traditional Foster Care placements. Children placed with a relative or fictive kin are more likely to remain in their school of origin, maintain safe relationships with biological parents, and have a reduction in trauma from being separated from their parents.

Impact of Placement Location

NUMBER OF PLACEMENT MOVES BY FIRST PLACEMENT LOCATION



Includes children who entered care between CY2021-2023 and were under 18 at the time of removal. Data is based on the most recent date of removal and placement entries in CY2021-2023. Placements do not include Trial Home Visits or AWOL. Exported data from Oasis on 3/20/2024.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Funding a kinship navigator for HMDSS will allow this person to work directly with family members to navigate financial options including mitigating costs of adding an additional household member. The navigator will be skilled in substance use prevention, substance use identification, and recovery support with aftercare. With the rise of fentanyl, our youth are at risk of consuming opioid laced substances including marijuana. The kinship navigator will work diligently to prevent OUD from permeating another generation of Henry County and Martinsville City families.

Objectives of this project:

1. Provide support, education, information, and referral to kinship caregivers open to the Family Preservation (Prevention) Unit and the Foster Care Unit.
2. Direct provision of services, such as completing permanency assessments, placement decisions, needs assessments, and facilitating kinship caregiver support groups to include collaborating with existing area kinship caregiver support groups.
3. Educating local vendors, community partners, and HMDSS staff on kin-focused services and supports. Creating information packets, a referral database, and other supportive tools to promote kin-focus throughout the community.

**Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services
Opioid Abatement Proposal for
Kinship Navigator Family Services Specialist IV Position
January 22, 2025**

4. Working with the Virginia Department of Social Services and other local departments of social services to develop a regional approach to kin-focused work.
5. Coordinating and collaborating with area groups such as the Opioid Task Force to enhance their training and understanding of SUD and OUD. Connecting families to local resources who can support their understanding of SUD and OUD.

Funding request detail for Family Services Specialist IV

\$58,650 Salary
 \$368 Worker's Compensation
\$3,636 FICA
 \$850 MEDI
\$7,630 Retirement
\$8,679 Medical Insurance
 \$786 Life Insurance
 \$332 Long-Term Disability
\$80,931 Grand Total

21-000 Community and Social Services Occupations **Category**

FAMILY SERVICES GROUP

<u>Occupational Title</u>	<u>Pay Band</u>	<u>Tier</u>	<u>EEO Code</u>
<i>Family Services Specialist IV</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>B</i>

Title Description- This is the beginning leadership level in the occupational group for Family Services. Employees function as a lead worker for subordinate family services specialists and/or acts as an expert resource specialist. Employees serve as support for the supervisor by performing tasks such as ensuring staff coverage, workload balance, training staff, reviewing case files, and providing back-up supervision of staff. Employees may provide consultation on complex cases and may also work on complex case assignments such as individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, case management, client advocacy, prevention, and education. Employees work within established policies, procedures and guidelines with a high degree of independence, seeking supervisory assistance only in unusually complicated and difficult cases/situations. **The Family Services Specialists IV class is distinguished from the Family Services Supervisor class by the latter's spending a majority of time in supervisory activities such as handling personnel issues, problems, and evaluating the work of others.**

General Work Tasks (Illustrative Only) -

- Provides persons, families, or vulnerable populations with the psychosocial support needed to cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses, neglect and abuse;
- Ensures that reports of suspected abuse/neglect are assigned to appropriate staff;
- Ensures that the local department has staff on duty 24 hours per day, seven days per week to respond to reports of abuse/neglect;
- Provides guidance, consultation and supervision to other staff in the absence of the supervisor;
- Prepares social histories and psychosocial diagnoses and develops treatment plans which identify problems, clinical methods for dealing with them, and the means by which services will be provided either within the agency or through referral to other community resources;
- Represents the agency in both civil and criminal court proceedings which involves interpreting laws, filing petitions, preparing court records, testifying before the court, preparing witnesses for examination, and compiling evidence;
- Provides direct intervention and service delivery for difficult, complex social work cases, and coordinates casework;
- Develops and conducts training for staff, interns and other professionals in the community;
- Supervises social work interns by guiding them in their service delivery, assessing their strengths and weaknesses, and communicating with the school liaison about their progress;
- Conducts field visits to residential facilities, consults with therapists and residential staff and participates in the staffing and planning of meetings;
- Functions as a lead worker providing guidance and training to other staff;
- May perform same functions described in Family Services Specialist III; and
- Coordinates program functions, develops programs, and evaluates materials.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge- Comprehensive knowledge of: social work principles and practices; human behavior and motivational theory; laws, policies, and regulations relating to human services program areas; investigating and interviewing techniques; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders; principles and processes for providing customer and personal services to include needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of satisfaction; principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance; and therapeutic treatment technique. Some knowledge of supervisory practices and principles if required in specific assignment.

Skills- Skill in: operating a personal computer and the associated software; and the operation of a motor vehicle.

Abilities- Demonstrated ability to: provide guidance and training in program areas to other employees if required in specific assignment; write court reports, home studies, evaluations, mediation agreements, letters, committee reports, presentations, and general information; make clinical judgments, assess clients' needs, and formulate plan of action; communicate effectively both orally and in writing; interview, assess needs, counsel and refer clients to other resources as needed; investigate high profile cases; testify in court proceedings; develop and present training programs and other presentations; interpret program laws, policies and regulations; develop and implement service plans in order to insure the delivery of appropriate services to the client; analyze case information to make sound judgments within the framework of existing laws, policies, and regulations; respond to the client's emotions in order to accomplish services objectives; develop speeches and represent the agency on program training and workshops; work in stressful situations and maintain diplomacy; plan and manage own work activities including service delivery preparing reports, and correspondence, record keeping responsibilities and related activities; establish and maintain effective relationships with others; and stay abreast of current trends and developments in the social work field.

Education and Experience- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a Human Services field or minimum of a Bachelor's degree in any field with a minimum of two years of appropriate and related experience in a Human Services area (Section 22VAC40-670-20 of the Administrative Code of Virginia). Considerable experience in assigned program area/human services programs and completion of required training programs. Work experience in a leadership role. Equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Possession of a BSW or MSW degree and a Commonwealth of Virginia Social Worker license are desirable.

TO INCENTIVIZE CITIES AND COUNTIES TO USE AND REPORT DIRECT DISTRIBUTIONS FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENTS BY MEETING THE OAA “GOLD STANDARD”

The Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Opioid Abatement Authority (“OAA”) is statutorily required to allocate a specific portion of the Opioid Abatement Fund (“Fund”) to each participating city and county (*see* Virginia Code § 2.2-2374(D)(2)). For purposes of this policy, this allocation will be referred to as the “OAA Distribution.”

In turn, each participating city and county has statutory obligations attached to the receipt of OAA Distributions (*see* Virginia Code § 2.2-2370(A)). These obligations are summarized below. For purposes of this policy these statutory obligations will be referred to collectively as the OAA “Gold Standard.”

- Participating cities and counties will only utilize OAA Distributions to fund efforts designed to treat, prevent, or reduce opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids through evidence-based or evidence-informed methods, programs, or strategies;
- Participating cities and counties shall not supplant funding of an existing program nor collect indirect costs; and
- Participating cities and counties shall provide the Authority with information on implementation of said methods, programs, or strategies and allow such monitoring and review as may be required by the Authority.
- Participating cities and counties must agree to certain base terms and conditions established by the OAA Board of Directors before receiving any OAA Distributions.

In addition to receiving the OAA Distribution, each participating city and county will also receive distributions directly from the settling companies. For purposes of this policy, this allocation will be referred to as the “Direct Distribution.”

The use and reporting requirements of the Direct Distribution are outlined in the nationally-negotiated settlement agreements and not through State statute. These use and reporting requirements are not as stringent nor as clear as the OAA’s Gold Standard, and in fact the OAA Gold Standard will always meet or exceed the requirements of the settlement agreements.

To encourage participating cities and counties to use all of their Direct Distribution funds fully for remediation and abatement, and to encourage participating cities and counties to report the use of their Direct Distribution funds to the OAA for the purpose of ensuring statewide adherence to the various settlement agreements, the Board hereby offers a voluntary financial incentive to each participating city and county. For each fiscal year that a participating city or county agrees to use and report their Direct Distribution funds according to the same standards they are required to use and report their OAA Distribution funds (i.e., the Gold Standard), the Board agrees to increase that city or county’s OAA Distribution by 25% above the base amount for that same fiscal year.

As noted above, each year that a city or county applies for any OAA Distribution, it must first agree to a set of base terms and conditions set by the OAA Board. In addition to those base terms and conditions, there will also be an additional set of extra terms and conditions that only apply to cities and counties that elect to participate in the incentive. These extra terms and conditions will specify the requirements for participating in the incentive. In short, each city or county will communicate its decision as to whether it will participate in the incentive by completing and submitting this additional set of terms and conditions.

Date of Board Approval: October 24, 2022



ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Travis Hodge, Managing Director of Administration

Subject: Discuss and Consider a Resolution of participation for Pre-65 Retirees in the Health insurance plan

Department/Office: Human Resources

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Resolution to cover a portion of the premiums for retirees as required by DHRM.

The Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) requires a board resolution from entities that cover a portion of the premiums for retirees as a way to formalize and document the commitment to covering those costs.

Recommended Action:

1. City Council Approve
2. City Council Do Not Approve
3. Other Action as Determined by Council

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. City of Martinsville - Board Resolution to add Pre-65 retired employees



RESOLUTION

Concerning participation by Pre-65 Retirees in the health insurance Plan

WHEREAS the **City of Martinsville** offers all full-time employees with medical health insurance through a health insurance plan “the Plan” and

WHEREAS only those retired employees who **are under the age of 65 and not yet eligible for Medicare** will be eligible and

WHEREAS the **City of Martinsville** reserves the right to modify or discontinue health care plans and third-party providers at its discretion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **City of Martinsville** does hereby extend the option for Pre-65 retired employees to participate in the health insurance plan.

Date: _____

Signed By: _____

Attested By: _____



Item: 8.e.

ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, City Manager

Subject: Receive a Presentation of the City's Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Department/Office: City Management

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None



Item: 11.a.

ITEM REPORT

To: City Council

From: Kendall Davis, Public Information Officer

Subject: Public Information

Department/Office: Community Engagement

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Summary:

Recommended Action:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None