

APPROVED MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS/ FARMINGTON
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES
September 10th, 2026
Room 382, The Hawk Community Center
29995 W 12 Mile Rd in Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

1. Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by Dr. Tanya Nordhaus

Members in attendance: Dr. Tanya Nordhaus, Manni Kohli, Bridget Gibbons, Daniela Peric, Bria Lewis, Monique Green Jones, Bhumika Mistry, Maiia Kishchukova, Alt. Alyson Gay

Liaisons in attendance: Caroline Silvagi

2. Approval of Agenda

Bria motioned for approval; Bhumika seconded

3. Approval of June Minutes

Manni motioned to approve; Bhumika seconded

4. Around the Table Introductions

The commission welcomed our newest members, Monique Green Jones and Maiia Kishchukova.

5. 2026 Final Expenses Updates

Update from Tanya: Shirts for the commission could not be purchased under last year's budget due to timing issues. We will instead be going with T-shirts. The reallocated funds for the t-shirts were able to be donated to the Farmington African American Parent Network as additional supplies. Tanya will meet with the FAAPN the week of 9/14 to donate the supplies. Monique will also share the schedule with the wider commission.

As a note: the 2027 fiscal year CYF budget is \$2700

6. Upward Mobility Initiative Discussion

Tanya brought the wider commission up to speed on her work with the Upward Mobility Initiative, a strategic program developed by the think tank Urban Institute, aimed at

supporting local governments and local leaders with data, metrics, and planning tools to boost economic mobility

7. Development and Approval of 2026-27 Strategic Action Plan

The group discussed the possibility of the Upward Mobility Initiative being a part of our strategic action plan and decided that it would be best to hold off on finalizing the 2027 strategy until the report is finalized ahead of the October 1st meeting. **The group will vote on strategic priorities in our November meeting.**

Tanya also discussed the possibility of inviting UMI to a presentation with the members and liaisons to give further detail about the initiative and development of the strategy. Outside of the initiative, the group discussed additional priorities as follows:

The Annual CYF Career Fair

- Moved to February
- Bria, Alyson, and Manni volunteered to assist

The Kindness Rock Garden

- Tanya to connect with Arts Commission to determine if they would be open to assisting with the “library” art house at Heritage Park.
- Caroline mentioned that Hay Day could be a good event for the rock garden.
- Alyson, Bria, and Bridget volunteered. In the meeting, the group contemplated participating in Hay Day, but the volunteers needed to confirm their schedules.
- The group should budget around \$250 for the initiative to help pay for paints, brushes, spray varnish, and other crafting supplies.

Volunteer Recognition

- Bhumika and Daniella expressed interest in assisting—more details are needed.

Hay Day

- Manni will be hosting a table at the event—she will be bringing the prize wheel as discussed in our June meeting.

Open House

- Bridget will be hosting a table at the event—she will be bringing the street sign craft as discussed in our June meeting.

Financial Literacy

- Manni mentioned financial literacy as a priority. Tanya mentioned potential for hosting events for adults at The Hawk. Alyson will work on financial literacy at The Hawk, and Caroline mentioned that the evenings work best for an event.

Mental Health

- Alyson asked if we'd supported in the past. Tanya gave background on specific support CYF has provided.

Clarifying Our Mission

- Monique pointed out that it could be helpful to host a collection of resources and information about CYF on our page on the Farmington Hills city website. The group discussed compiling a list of resources.
- Daniella pointed out that other commissions are able to house information within their section of the Farmington Hills website and pointed to the Commission on Public Health as an example of such. Caroline will follow up internally to better understand the capabilities of the website.

8. New Business and Announcements

Alyson followed up on her question from last session on whether we're able to include more youth voices in our conversations. The group mentioned the possibility of working with the Youth Council—Alyson will reach out to Krystal (Library Liaison) and Mayor Rich. Tanya noted that we would need to change bylaws.

9. Public Comments

No public comments.

10. Adjournment

Tanya motioned to adjourn; Manni seconded.