

Tidewater Youth Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2020

Attending: Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee, Mr. Kevin Curling (for Ms. Beth St. John), Mr. Carl Faison, Mr. Azeez Felder, Ms. Katherine Grimm, Ms. Jenny Hodge, Ms. Kimberly Jennings, Mr. Rusty Jordan, Ms. Pamela Little-Hill, Ms. Olympiah Perkins, Ms. Ginger Ploeger & Mr. Shawn Sawyer

Not attending: All Present

Staff: Ms. Jenny Hodge, Ms. Ginger Ploeger & Mr. Shawn Sawyer

Guests: None

Call to Order: The Chair, Katherine Grimm, called the February 3, 2020 meeting of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission to order at 11:30 a.m.

- I. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 18, 2019 meeting were distributed & reviewed. There were no noted corrections. A motion to approve the November minutes as written was made by Kim Jennings and seconded by Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee. The members voted and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

II. **Items Carried Forward:**

A. **Tidewater Youth Services Foundation (TYSF):** Jenny Hodge

Jenny Hodge updated the TYSC Board on the following:

The 25th Annual Tidewater Youth Services Santa Claus Shuffle 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run was held on Sunday, December 8 in Olde Towne Portsmouth. The Commission's signature fundraiser garnered \$27,000 in proceeds. There were approximately 260 race participants registered this year. The race generated close to \$34,000 last year with the main difference being in a higher number of registered runners for the Shuffle. The goal is to have 300-400 registered participants. The largest impact on the number of race participants dropping in recent years has been likely due to the sheer significant increase in the volume of fundraising running races put on in the Hampton Roads/Tidewater area during the months of November and December. When the Commission began putting on the Santa Claus Shuffle, we were one of the only fundraising races to occur over the seasonal holiday months. Now several very large winter races are put on in our area within one to two weeks of our event to include after parties. The TYSC Board members made suggestions and made inquiries about what has been explored previously with this fundraising event. Jenny advised the TYSC Board that the Tidewater Youth Services Foundation Board were actively working on ideas for enhancing next year's event.

B. **Westhaven Capital Campaign:** (Update)

- Shawn met with Virginia Thumm of Virginia Fundraising Consultants in December. Thumm reported that she has met with many of the large donors in the area and she believes that approximately \$300k-\$500k could be raised in the community for the purpose of rebuilding Westhaven Boys Home. Again based on her assessment, thus far for the Westhaven Capital Campaign feasibility study, Virginia has determined that The Commission will likely need to ask for the State's assistance with some of the funding to rebuild Westhaven or utilize Commission funds to offset the expense that cannot be raised by community donations alone.
- As mentioned in our last Board meeting, Shawn has spoken with Angela Valentine, Chief Deputy of DJJ, and she has indicated that the process to request the State's assistance with funding is cumbersome; however, in the event the Commission needs to proceed in that direction that she will gladly assist.
- The Architect has drafted a plan to reduce the original projected size of the building from 7,500 sq. ft. to 6,000 sq. ft. due to the blue print of the building and to meet all parking and sewer requirements. This will still double the current size of the Westhaven Boys Home.

- Shawn and Carlos Hooker, Director of Westhaven Boys Home, went to the House Appropriations Committee on January 22 at the request of Delegate Heretick. Delegate Heretick requested \$500k in the Governor's new budget to assist in the rebuilding of Westhaven Boys Home.

Below is the link to the presentation to the Appropriations Committee:

<https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php>

Select the date **January 22, 2020** on the calendar & Scroll down to **APPROPRIATIONS**

The presentation starts at **3:23(11) pm** and concludes at **3:25(12) pm**

- Shawn notified that Board that in the event that the State budget did not include the requested funds to assist with the rebuilding of Westhaven or if fundraising efforts fell short, that the Commission would need to utilize funds from the Commission reserves in order to proceed with the project. The Commission has the funds in the reserves and per the Commission Board; the money can be utilized for this purpose while still leaving plenty of additional funds available. The TYSC board at their December 8, 2009 meeting determined that there is to be 22.5% of our annual operating budget, which is currently 5.5 million in our fund balance at all times. Westhaven's building is approximately 50 years old. While the building is clean and safe, most everyone agrees that it is an absolute need for a larger, more modern, and structurally improved building and that is long overdue. Westhaven Boys Home is highly utilized and has some of the best outcomes in our agency. Shawn would like to proceed with the capital campaign over the course of the next year. The architect's estimate that the project will cost close to \$1.2 million dollars however, that is an estimation. The engineers will still need to provide their evaluation. The \$1.2 million estimation is from start to finish "turnkey" and move-in ready. Today Westhaven has a population of 13 youth. The project to rebuild Westhaven is estimated to take approximately six months as long as there are no major setbacks. We have combined on a short-term basis previously the Westhaven Boys Home program and the Crisis Intervention Home program at 811 13th Street. Crisis Intervention Home has the ability to house up to 21 co-ed youth if necessary. If the State does fund us the \$500k, the Commission would pay for the expenses and then be requesting reimbursement from the State.

C. Independent Living Program: (Update)

- TYSC is in discussions with DJJ about expanding the licensed capacity under the Apartment Living Program's independent living program to serve cross-over youth ages 18-21. TYSC contacted the certification unit. Certification will get back with TYSC regarding the process and next steps.

D. Juvenile Drug Court Planning Grant: (Update)

The Virginia Beach Juvenile Drug Court Planning Grant Bi-Monthly Meetings are going well thus far. The most recent meeting was held January 21 and the next meeting will be held on March 17. At this time, the City of Virginia Beach's stakeholder agencies are working on defining what their roles would be in a juvenile drug court. There will also participate in relevant training and Karin Duncan and John Crawford who are spearheaded the planning grant will be collaborating with Newport News to learn more about their drug court.

E. VJCCCA Planning Year

- This year TYSC is required to submit the VJCCCA FY2021-FY2022 biennial plan. Shawn will be required to meet with each locality and convene a local planning group for the purpose of reviewing data and discussing whether changes are needed to the menu of services and or the design of programs/services in the plan. Locality plans will be based upon a review of data and an objective assessment of the needs of juveniles before intake. The plans should be developed in consultation with the judges of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the Director of the Court Services Unit (CSU) and the Chair of the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT). FY'21 grant applications and final proposed plans may be submitted as early as March 16, 2020 and must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The April 1st due date is important to ensure adequate time for DJJ VJCCCA staff to review plan submissions, as well as to ensure localities have time for making any required Each locality is required to submit letters of support and approval from the CPMT Chair, CSU Director, and Chief Judge, and when applicable an updated resolution from the locality's governing body (Board of Supervisors/City Council).

F. Items from Members or Staff:

Qualified Residential Treatment Provider (QRTP) Update: Shawn updated the Board that during the last Virginia Community Residential Care Association (VCRCA) meeting that Shawn and Ginger attended that Jeff Williams, Project Manager of Virginia Social Services who is leading the implementation of the Families First Act indicated that more than likely group homes would be able to sign MOAs or MOUs with agencies who provide 24hour nursing staff to meet that QRTP requirement. There are still many unanswered questions. One big question remains whether Children's Services Act (CSA) funding will require QRTP status. Scott Reiner has suggested publicly that this will be the case. At this time, in the event TYSC is required to meet the QRTP designation, the Crisis Intervention Home, would become the designated group home to satisfy this requirement as this facility serves both males and females and currently has the largest capacity. DJJ has not indicated if they will go the QRTP route. TYSC is being proactive in pursuing the accreditation as it can take up to a year to be certified. Implementation is costly and its initial expenses projected to be upwards of \$25k with renewal expenses every 2-3 years.

III. New Business

A. December Financials:

- In the 1st Quarter the Agency was down significantly
- Utilization has leveled-out now
- December revenue went up
- Challenge Outreach was highly utilized
- TYSC's Contract with Norfolk providing EM/GPS has helped
- TYSC finished the month of December in the positive: \$67,492.47
- TYSC is now \$22,094.49 Mid-Year in the positive
- Leave Sell-Back could NOT be implemented

B. Staff Safety:

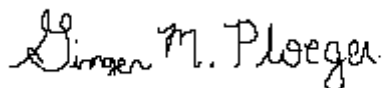
- Shawn shared a concerning incident experienced by a seasoned part-time challenge outreach worker with more than 30 years of work in this field. The worker was facilitating a home visit when gunshots were heard outside of the home and the residents of the home shouted for him to get on the ground. No one was injured during the incident however; the Board discussed the concerns regarding staff safety in providing services to Commission clients in our facilities and in our communities.

C. Items from Members or Staff:

None

- D. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Katherine Grimm motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Pamela Little-Hill seconded the motion. All board members agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ginger M. Ploeger
Deputy Director
Tidewater Youth Services Commission