

**Tidewater Youth Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 01, 2021**

Attending: Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee, Mr. Carl Faison, Ms. Katherine Grimm, Ms. Jenny Hodge, Ms. Kimberly Jennings, Mr. Rusty Jordan, Ms. Olymphina Perkins, Ms. Ginger Ploeger, Mr. Shawn Sawyer & Ms. Beth St. John

Not attending: Mr. Azeez Felder and Ms. Pamela Little-Hill

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

* The Virginia General Assembly authorized public bodies — including local boards and commissions — to meet electronically during the state of emergency declared by Gov. Ralph Northam in response to COVID-19. Due to the State of Virginia still being declared as being under a State of Emergency, some members participated by means of virtual participation due to social distancing needs.

Guests: None

Call to Order: The Chair, Katherine Grimm, called the February 01, 2021 meeting of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission to order at 11:41 a.m.

- I. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the December 07, 2020 meeting were distributed & reviewed. There were no noted corrections. A motion to approve the December minutes as written was made by Carl Faison and was seconded by Beth St. John. 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 Santa Claus Shuffle was held virtually this year due to the pandemic. The Shuffle was held December 06-December 13. The fundraiser netted \$27k despite being held for the first time as an all-virtual race. This was the same net profit as the race held in 2019. There were 115 total participants. The TYSF Board secured several new sponsors this year. There were some new events this year as well including a “Rockin’ Country Christmas” free virtual concert and a variety holiday show presented by Music Theory Studios. Expenses incurred for putting on the race this year were 60% less due to it being held virtually.
- The Agena Foundation awarded TYSF with a very generous \$20k donation (\$15k will be to be utilized for Independent Living Skills program development and \$5k will be to continue DJ classes for the youth at each group home at Music Theory Studios.)
- It is “Grant Season”. Jenny is pursuing grants currently to help support Franklin School-Based Case Management, Independent Living Skills, Prevention and Aftercare.
- In February, TYSF will be hosting another fundraiser. This fundraiser is a Valentine’s theme “For the Love of Beer”. This will be a Virtual Beer Tasting Fundraiser hosted by Tidewater Youth Services and New Realm Brewery.

Tickets will be \$25 for a tasting ticket and will include the following:

- 6 – craft beers brewed by New Realm Brewery
- 1 – swag bag full of snacks and chocolates
- 1 – souvenir tasting glass
- 1 – pre-recorded tasting experience you can watch at your own pace
- 1- raffle ticket

Ticket can be purchased at:

<https://loveofbeer.yapsody.com/>

Pick up beer and swag bags at New Realm Brewing: 1209 Craft Lane, Virginia Beach VA 23454. Participants will enjoy beverages and Valentine's treats at their leisure in the comforts of their own homes.

The funds raised through the "For the Love of Beer" will be used towards helping the youth with things such as haircuts and interview clothes. At this time, TYSF is at 40% of the ticket sales goal.

B. TYSC Board Request to Amend 21-22 VJCCCA Plan: Shawn

Shawn sent a letter to the TYSC Board on January 18, 2021 outlining the reasons/rationale for the request to amend the 21-22 VJCCCA Plan to include the cost of the Commission's Clinical Director services. A copy of this case for support letter is attached with these minutes.

After much discussion, Carl Faison moved that the TYSC Board approved the request to amend the 21-22 VJCCCA Plan to include the Commission's Clinical Director services with the contingency that there be the available VJCCCA funds at the end of the FY'21 to do so. Kimberly Jennings seconded. The Board voted and the motion carried unanimously. The Board voted to only approve the amendment for the current fiscal year and determined that they would vote on FY'22 when voting to approve the FY'22 Budget and once the member localities have a better idea about potential local fund budget decreases/impacts.

C. Items from Members or Staff: None

III. New Business

A. TYSC Juvenile Residential Services Contract with Norfolk: TYSC was awarded a contract with the City of Norfolk to provide Residential Services. The contract is for up to \$50k of VJCCCA funding and \$50k of CSA funding. Annual renewals through 2025. The Commission will be holding a meeting with the NCSU on February 10th to review TYSC group homes and to discuss services offered. The Commission will also be addressing how we can best partner to meet the needs for Norfolk youth who may need a temporary out of home placement.

B. Hiring Freeze for Fulltime Positions: Currently TYSC has needed to implement an agency-wide hiring freeze for fulltime positions due to low utilization in programs.

C. December Financials:

Shawn presented the December financials. The agency had a net loss of \$19k in month six of the fiscal year with an overall \$141k deficit year to date at the end of the month of December. Utilization numbers in the programs have been low during the pandemic. The agency historically experiences lower utilization in the first half of the fiscal year; however by now, the numbers would have started to pick up considerably. Utilization has increased some in January. As of today, Lynnhaven Boys Home is at full capacity with 12 youth, Westhaven Boys Home has 10 youth and the Crisis Intervention Home is at 5 youth. Shawn is hopeful that utilization will continue to improve. The agency is implementing every measure to minimize operational expenses.

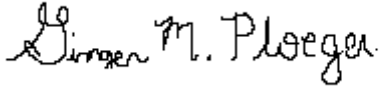
D. COVID-19 Update:

The Emergency Standards COVID expired. Shawn is participating in a training tomorrow to learn more. TYSC employees were notified that TYSC would be extending the two weeks of emergency COVID-19 leave for fulltime employees despite the Federal mandate expiring at the end of December. The Board supported Shawn's decision to extend the emergency leave and confirmed that other State agencies have extended the leave through the end of March. TYSC will extend the leave through March 31, 2021 as well.

E. Bond Refinance: The Bond for the TYSC Main Office Building at 2404 Airline Boulevard is due to expire in July of 2021. The Commission owes \$505k remaining on the building. The last time that the Commission secured a new bond for the building the legal fees were approximately \$40-\$50k. Currently with commercial property interest rates being very low, Shawn is exploring the option to refinance with a traditional commercial mortgage versus a bond. Shawn has spoken with Towne Bank who currently holds the bond and is getting comparison costs for a refinance versus a bond.

F. Adjournment: There being no further business, Carl Faison motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee seconded the motion. All board members agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginger M. Ploeger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ginger M. Ploeger
Deputy Director
Tidewater Youth Services Commission