

## **Tidewater Youth Services Commission (TYSC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 04, 2021**

**Attending:** Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee, Mr. Carl Faison, Ms. Katherine Grimm, Ms. Pamela Little-Hill, Ms. Jenny Hodge, Ms. Kimberly Jennings, Mr. Rusty Jordan & Ms. Ginger Ploeger

**Not attending:** Mr. Azeez Felder, Ms. Olymphina Perkins & Ms. Beth St. John

**Staff:** Ms. Jenny Hodge & Ms. Ginger Ploeger

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** The Chair, Katherine Grimm, called the October 04, 2021 meeting of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission to order at 11:39 a.m.

- I. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting were distributed & reviewed. There were no noted corrections. A motion to approve the September minutes as written was made by Kimberly Jennings and was seconded by Carl Faison. 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:

- **Santa Claus Shuffle:** Tidewater Youth Services Foundation has contracted with Patrick Belcher, a fundraising consultant, to promote and assist with managing the Santa Claus Shuffle fundraising event this year. Patrick will be coordinating the race in Olde Town Portsmouth. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Claus Shuffle 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run will take place on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Programming:** On the programming side, Program Coordinator, Jessica Lee, has been working with the Hope U Foundation to pilot a 1x weekly Gang Prevention/Intervention group at Westhaven Boys Home. The group is called the "Edward Brown Youth Gang Initiative". The groups provided by Hope U Foundation began last week. Westhaven Boys Home youth are also having literary sessions provided by The Muse Writers Center encouraging the boys' creative writing.

#### B. **Tidewater Youth Services Commission (TYSC):** Jenny Hodge

- Jenny reported to the Board that the plan remains for the staff and youth at Westhaven Boys Home to temporarily transition into the Lynnhaven Boys Home building in order for much needed repairs to be completed at Westhaven. Jenny is coordinating with Mark Dumbauld, the Commission's maintenance worker, to complete the work. Jenny anticipates the work taking approximately 4-6 weeks. Recently, maintenance to include painting and minor repairs has been completed at Lynnhaven Boys Home as that building is currently unoccupied.
- Jenny reported to the Board that Westhaven Boys Home was at a population at 11 youth and the Crisis Intervention Home was at 6. Jenny has capped the population at Crisis to 6 youth maximum until more staff can be hired and trained. Recruitment continues to be particularly challenging during the pandemic.
- Jenny reported to the Board that the Commission is postponing a decision regarding proceeding with pursuing accreditation for one of the group homes as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program(QRTP) for 90 days until the Commission can better assess the agency's resources and determine the financial impact of pursuing versus discontinuing this plan.

### III. **Items from Members or Staff:** None

### IV. **New Business**

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**A. Financials:** Jenny Hodge

The financial composite statement for August 2021 was presented to the Board. FY 2022 YTD Month 2 indicates a net loss of \$63,247.12. Vicki Hubbard will present and review the financial statements for the agency in TYSC Board meetings moving forward. Jenny advised the Board that VJCCCA funds that have been returned to the state will be available for the application of mini-grants in the near future.

**B. Group Home Status:** Jenny Hodge

This was covered above in update regarding Tidewater Youth Services Commission Report

**C. Promising Youth Opportunities:** Katherine Grimm

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is making federal funds available for planning and implementation of programs which are evidence-based (research and data-driven) and able to be sustained following completion of the grant funding and system change initiatives that support the uplifting of youth development. These federal funds are available for projects under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act Title II Formula Grants Program from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The COVID-19 pandemic has left a lasting impact on communities across the Commonwealth causing a major disruption in our normal day-to-day routine. The disproportionate effect of the pandemic on young people has exacerbated inequalities and risks reducing the productive potential of normal adolescent development. Furthermore, youth serving agencies now must recognize that many youth will come into services with multiple service needs to include trauma, homelessness, loss of education, income, and exposure to family and community violence. Through this solicitation, DCJS is affording the opportunity for the creation of a system response to help assist with the safe transitioning of our youth from isolation to socialization.

The Board discussed this potential grant funding opportunity and Jenny will look into the grant further to see if the Commission may want to pursue.

**D. Charter:**

The Board discussed that they are in the process of updating the Charter agreement for the Commission. The Code from the original charter agreement has been repealed. The Board has a committee looking at the Charter. There was discussion as to the language in the original charter agreement regarding participating localities having a judge as an ex-officio member.

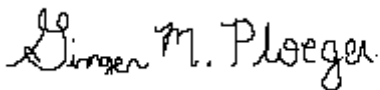
**E. Items from Members or Staff:** Ginger update the Board on the research having been completed regarding the testing of COVID-19 unvaccinated employees. This research has been presented to Jenny and the agency will need to determine procurement of testing supplies and whether or not to require regularly testing of unvaccinated employees.

**F. \*Closed Session: Search Committee/Interview Committee Report:** Katherine Grimm motioned that the Board go into Closed Session to discuss confidential personnel matters. All members voted to approve. Pamela Little-Hill motioned to exit closed session and reenter in open session. Rusty Jordan seconded. All members voted "aye".

**G.** Motion by Rusty Jordan that Hiring Committee would send the hiring questions to the Board Chair to be disseminated to the Hiring Panel. Seconded by Pamela Little-Hill. Motioned carried.

**H. Adjournment:** There no further business, Kimberly Jennings motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Carl Faison seconded the motion. All board members agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ginger M. Ploeger  
Deputy Director  
Tidewater Youth Services Commission