

Tidewater Youth Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2021

Attending: Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee, Ms. Katherine Grimm, Ms. Pamela Little-Hill, Ms. Beth St. John, Ms. Kimberly Jennings, & Mr. Carl Faison, Mr. Rusty Jordan

Not attending: Ms. Olymphina Perkins, Mr. Azeez Felder

Staff: Mr. Shawn Sawyer, Ms. Jenny Hodge (via conference call)

Guests: None.

Call to Order: The Chair, Katherine Grimm, called the August 2, 2021 meeting of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission to order at 11:44 a.m.

I. Review of the previous meeting minutes:

Pamela Little-Hill moved to accept the minutes as written. Carl Faison seconded the motion. The members voted and the motion was carried.

II. Items Carried Forward:

A. Tidewater Youth Services Foundation

Jenny Hodge reported that TYSF received a grant one year ago to provide ART groups for Portsmouth JCC. The grant was for 2 years and TYSF has not been able to use the funds due to COVID-19. After meeting with Mr. Ed Holmes, the money was approved to be used for expanded groups in other localities for diversion purposes as well. Jenny asked the Commissioners to let her know if there is any interest in any of our localities for these groups. The start time will be between Sept. and Oct.

Ms. Hodge also stated that the Independent Living Skills groups have been ongoing. The youth have been able to do a number of activities, such as zip-lining and peach picking. The Muse Writing Center is coming in to the Westhaven three days per week for three weeks to work on literacy skills with the youth in that facility. These services will be paid for with a grant.

B. Tidewater Youth Service Commission Update:

C. Items from Members or Staff: None

III. New Business

A. June Financials

Shawn Sawyer reported that May had been a good month for revenue and staff. There are no June financials available at this time due to the year-end accounting. Mr. Sawyer indicated that the numbers would be available around the middle of the month.

The Crisis Home was closed due to staff testing positive for COVID-19. It is currently going through a deep cleaning. Staff have been going through files to keep them up to date and maintenance is making necessary repairs to the building. Everything should be ready for reopening when they are able to reopen. All of the referral agencies were contacted before the facility closed to make sure there were appropriate placements for all of the youth concerned.

The Commission staff is around 50% fully vaccinated for COVID-19 at this time. They are being encouraged to get vaccinated through emails and information distribution. Staff cannot participate in getting youth in the facilities vaccinated without parental participation. Mr. Faison asked if a partnership could be arranged with

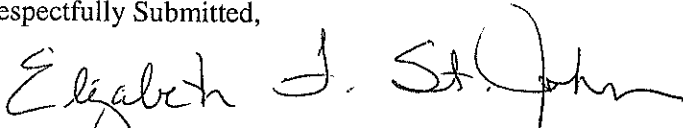
the Health Department to get vaccines into the Group Homes. There was discussion among the board members about this possibility/barriers/parental consent/case managers helping with transportation, etc.

Westhaven currently has 11 youth. Crisis will open at a reduced capacity due to staff shortages. The Commission is currently training a new food service worker for Crisis.

Mr. Sawyer indicated there is a mask mandate back in place at the main office. There has always been a mask mandate in the Group Homes.

- B.** Motion to go into closed session to consider personnel issues was made by Kim Jennings 12:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Carl Faison. The roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A motion was made to come out of closed session and seconded. The roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative and the Board came out of closed session at 12:58.
- C. Items from Members or Staff:** None
- D. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Pamela Little-Hill motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee seconded the motion. All board members were in agreement and the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elizabeth F. St. John
Secretary/Treasurer
Tidewater Youth Services Commission Board