

**Tidewater Youth Services Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 7, 2022**

**Attending:** Dr. Cynthia Blakeslee, Ms. Katherine Grimm, Ms. Beth St. John, Ms. Kimberly Jennings, Mr. Rusty Jordan, & Ms. Olympia Perkins

**Not attending:** Mr. Carl Faison

**Staff:** Ms. Jenny Hodge

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** The Chair, Katherine Grimm, called the February 7, 2022 meeting of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission to order at 11:47 a.m.

**I. Review of the previous meeting minutes:**

Corrections to the October 2021 minutes were made: “Rusty Jordan made a motion that interview questions for the Executive Director’s position would be disseminated to the panel from the Chairperson of the Board.” A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction by Mr. Jordan and was seconded by Dr. Blakeslee. The motion was carried.

The minutes of the December 6, 2021 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as recorded by Mr. Jordan and was seconded by Ms. Jennings. The motion was carried.

**II. Items Carried Forward:**

**A. Tidewater Youth Services Foundation**

Ms. Hodge reported that the Foundation is still working with Patrick Belcher, consultant. They will be starting a fund raising campaign. This will be a capital campaign with the goal of raising \$100,000.00 for group home improvements, furniture, and other necessary items. This will give the Foundation the chance to learn how to build their donor database.

The Foundation will be doing a “Love of Beer” Fundraiser in the April in coordination with a local brewery.

In researching the Drug Court Grant from OJJDP, it was determined that a mental health/drug court may be a better fit for this area. The Foundation will be able to use funds this new venture to include diversion for drug issues. Ms. Jennings stated that there has been an increase in mental health issues since the beginning of the pandemic. Ms. Grimm concurred and stated that Portsmouth currently has a mental health court for adults. Ms. Perkins stated that these two issues (mental health and drug use) are quite frequently tied together as drug use can sometimes be caused by mental health issues. Mr. Jordan stat that DSS has had issues with parents using opioids, and this sometimes leads to mental health issues in the children of those families.

**B. Tidewater Youth Service Commission Update:**

Ms. Hodge stated that VJCCCA plans are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Directors of the Court Service Units will need to help to submit this information.

**C. Items from Members or Staff: None**

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. Financials**

Ms. Hubbard was not able to be in attendance today, however, she sent the financials for the Board to review. She is working on the audit and quarterly financials. Two programs currently have a deficit: Crisis and Community Based Services. The Interim Director is working with staff to try and build the capacity for returning youth to the programs. Some restructuring may need to occur in the next budget cycle.

Ms. Hodge that a new IT company has been hired to work with TYSC.

#### **Group Home Status**

The Crisis Home has been able to hire new staff and has been tasked with added 2 youth to the population every 2 to 3 weeks until they reach a capacity of 12. Lynnhaven is still closed, however, the Commission is working to hire staff so that this program will be able to reopen safely.

- B.** Motion to go into closed session to consider personnel issues was made by Katherine Grimm at 12:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth St. John. The roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A motion was made to come out of closed session. The roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative and the Board came out of closed session at 2:00 pm.

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

- D. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mr. Jordan motioned that the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Jennings seconded. All board members were in agreement and the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Elizabeth F. St. John*

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