

Tidewater Youth Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 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, & Olymphina Perkins

Not attending: Mr. Azeez Felder

Staff: Ms. Jenny Hodge, Ms. Ginger Ploeger

Guests: Altrice Allmond, Andrea Atwell, Karen Duncan, Caroline DiGirolamo

Call to Order: The Chair, Katherine Grimm, called the September 20, 2021 meeting of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission to order at 11:34 a.m. and introduced the meeting guests.

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 Santa Claus Shuffle will have been scheduled to occur this year. The Foundation has hired a consultant, Patrick Belcher to help with fundraising, development and marketing. He is setting up the Santa Claus Shuffle. Registration will be set up next month for the virtual and in-person run. Mr. Belcher's salary is being paid with the Foundation's endowment for one year. He will be working to grow the Foundation's fundraisers.

Ms. Hodge also stated that summer went well with all of the programming put in place for the youth in the residential programs. The Foundation was able to make a lot of good community partnerships.

B. Tidewater Youth Service Commission Update:

Ms. Hodge stated that the commission is still plagued by staff shortages. Re-entry and the Apartment Living Program are fully staffed. The Commission is having a very hard time getting qualified applicants. They are advertising positions "until filled" and the Directors are doing everything they can to make sure programs are running as well as possible.

C. Items from Members or Staff: None

III. New Business

A. June and July Financials

Ms. Hodge reported that the end of the fiscal year financial information should be ready by tomorrow. Ms. Hodge is working with Ms. Hubbard to get the financial information ready for the auditors next month. The report will not be complete until the depreciations are compiled.

B. Group Home Status

Westhaven is still under quarantine by the Portsmouth Health Department. They have participated in a full 2 week quarantine. The youth are participating in virtual school. Maintenance needs to be done to the building but could not be completed due to the quarantine situation. They have had no new positive cases. Ms. Hodge and the program director have discussed moving the youth to Lynnhaven while the repairs are being made to the Westhaven. The repairs that need to be done involve the building's plumbing and cannot be done with all

of the youth in residence. Westhaven's population is at 9 and quarantine will be lifted on 9/23/21. The program can accept new residents on Friday, 9/24/21.

C. Information regarding the Commission Charter:

Ms. Grimm stated that the Commission's Charter needs to be updated. All of the statutes that are included in the original language of the Commission's Charter have now been rescinded. She has contacted the Commission's Attorney to help with finding the new statutory language to use in the charter so that we can find the new code sections that replaced those that were rescinded. Dr. Blakeslee, Ms. Little-Hill and Ms. St. John volunteered to help with Ms. Grimm with the process.

D. COVID weekly testing:

Ms. Ploeger stated that she is trying to set up policy for the upcoming requirement for non-vaccinated employees to receive weekly COVID-19 testing. She asked for Commissioners to send her information regarding their agency policies as she tried to determine the best strategy for the Commission. She also asked about information regarding the purchasing of testing kits.

Ms. Ploeger also brought up the fact that now that marijuana is legal, this may affect previous testing procedures. It was discussed that no employee can come to work "impaired" or unable to do their job.

E. Motion to go into closed session to consider personnel issues was made by Katherine Grimm at 12:31 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 and seconded. The roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative and the Board came out of closed session at 1:50.

F. Motion by Ms. Grimm to accept the recommendations of the selection committee to leave the advertisement open for 2 weeks and go ahead and set up interviews for the two applicants currently screened to be interviewed.

G. Items from Members or Staff: None

H. Adjournment: There being no further business, Pamela Little-Hill motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Faison seconded the motion. All board members were in agreement and the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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