**Safe Harbor Commission Meeting**

**October 20, 2020,10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting Attendees:** Amy Hutsell, Tom Rawlings, April Hale, Susan Boatwright, LaMarva Ivory, Theresa Schiefer, Alex Sponseller, Alex Beyer, Melissa Carter, Diane Scoggins, Judith Fouts, Rachel Davidson, Kristy Carter, Tyrone Oliver, Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Victor Williams, Ambrea Henderson, Mary Frances Bowley, James Kizer, Amy Hutsell, Aleks Jagiella-Litts, Michelle Smith, Gabrielle Starr, Steven Hatfield, Daniel Chadwick and Salena Perry.

**Called to Order:** 10:02am

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Call to Order – Tom Rawlings, DFCS Division Director**
	1. ***Updates and announcements***
		1. Allison Ashe is the Lieutenant Governor’s appointee, but it has not been officially communicated as of now.
		2. Director Rawlings spoke with Lisa Durden in the Governor’s Office and they have received the committee’s recommendation.
2. **Update on the Safe Harbor Lawsuit - Nicholas Smith, Director of External Affairs and Public Policy, Attorney General’s Office and Alex Sponseller, Senior Assistant Attorney General.**
3. There is currently around $600,000 available in the Safe Harbor Fund.
4. The Department of Revenue is continuing to audit the clubs.
5. There should be more information about the audits in early spring when the businesses file for returns.
6. The case has been appealed, however, due to COVID-19, the case doc is not in the Supreme Court yet.
7. There will be more information when the case reaches the Supreme Court.
8. **Subcommittee Reports**
	1. Communications – Susan Boatwright, DFCS Special Projects Consultant
		1. This sub-committee agreed to meet as needed to review any marketing or PR content.
	2. Safe Harbor Fund - Kristy Carter, Victim Assistance Division Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)
		1. The funding sub-committee did not meet.
		2. The CJCC Staff has compiled an RFA or funding announcement when funds are appropriated from the Safe Harbor fund.
		3. Kristy reviewed the funding document draft with the Commission members.
		4. The document will be emailed to the Safe Harbor Commission members.
		5. The priority areas that were presented and approved were the residential treatment facility and safe home support, new construction or renovation of a residential facility, and priority for secured transport.
		6. There will be a follow up funding subcommittee meeting to discuss any questions or concerns that the Committee might have.
		7. Regarding the next legislative session around funding, DHS will make a proposal requesting all funds in the Safe Harbor Fund will be appropriated so there are funds available on the Commission level.
	3. State Protocol - Rachel Davidson, Director for the Office of the Child Advocate and Amy Hutsell, Program Director with CJCC Victim Assistance
		1. The subcommittee decided to use the DFCS protocol as a foundation and build from there.
	4. Communications – Susan Boatwright, DFCS Special Projects Consultant
		1. This sub-committee agreed to meet as needed to review any marketing or PR content.
9. **Update on the new CSEC/DMST State Response – Amy Hutsell, Program Director with CJCC Victim Assistance**
	* 1. The Children’s Advocacy Center of Georgia (CAC-GA) is the new DMST Service Provider.
		2. They are responsible for the DMST hotline, ongoing care coordination, and the assessment of CSEC Youth.
		3. The DMST hotline is 1-866-END-HTGA and it is a general hotline that connects directly to GBI, CAC-GA, Out of Darkness, Tapestry, and the Receiving Hope Center.
		4. The DMST hotline can be given to potential victims to receive help.
		5. The launch of the State’s first statewide law enforcement based human trafficking task force happened on October 9th. Victor Williams is the coordinator for that task force.
10. **Presentation: Receiving Hope Center – Mary Frances Bowley, CEO, Wellspring Living**
	* 1. The Receiving Hope Center gave a presentation and virtual tour during the meeting.
		2. The presentation will be emailed to Safe Harbor Commission members along with the minutes.
11. **Next Meeting**
	* 1. The next Safe Harbor Commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 5th from 10am-12pm.

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:46 am**