



Q4 Safe Harbor Commission Meeting

November 18, 2024

Zoom Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present: Candice Broce, Dianne Scoggins, April Hale, Irene Munn, Grant Thomas, Judith Fouts, Jay Neal

Members Absent: Theresa Schiefer

Agenda Approval

- Motion by Irene Munn.
- Second by April Hale.
- All members approve. Motion carries.

September 10, 2024 Minutes Approval

- Motion by Irene Munn.
- Second by Grant Thomas.
- All members approve. Motion carries.

Presentations

Fran Mulderig, Senior Assistant Attorney General

- The Georgia Supreme Court upheld all components of the statute on free speech grounds. Decision came down on October 31, 2024. A Motion for Reconsideration was denied on November 14, 2024. This is the end of the state portion of this litigation.
- The lawyer for the petitioners has indicated that he will petition to the US Supreme Court. They have 90 days to file, but they can ask for an extension, which the US Supreme Court routinely grants. This drags out the timeline significantly.
- The Revenue Department is engaging in audits to establish the tax that is owed, so they will be ready to issue official assessments when the Supreme Court decision comes down.
- FY 2024 Collections: \$16,670
- YTD FY 2025 Collections: \$3,030

Jennifer Swain, Executive Director of youthSpark



- youthSpark is one of Georgia's oldest organizations to serve youth who have been trafficked.
- The organization is working upstream on prevention to try to keep young people safe in the community. Their Voices program began as a pilot project with the Fulton County Juvenile Court, and the Youth Services Center is based inside juvenile court. Now, much of the services work to supplement the residential-based response to CSEC by providing services in the community/home.
- An ongoing project now involves working with partners to understand how CHINS youth can be best served and routed for services and how those youth may overlap with CSEC victims.
- This year's Safe Harbor Award Funds are going toward the Youth Recovery Response program. youthSpark is researching to understand why youth run away/leave home by collaborating with state and national partners to collect data and create a databank of where kids are falling through the cracks. They have entered Phase Two of this plan, which involves working with families of missing young people to make individual action plans for the child/family and informing all partners to ensure appropriate agencies are notified and involved to help the child recover.

Closing Comments

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.