**Safe Harbor Commission Meeting**

**January 5, 2021,1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting Attendees:** Amy Hutsell, Tom Rawlings, April Hale, Susan Boatwright, LaMarva Ivory, Chris Hempfling, Theresa Schiefer, Melissa Carter, Diane Scoggins, Judith Fouts, Rachel Davidson, Kristy Carter, Tyrone Oliver, Amy Hutsell, Aleks Jagiella-Litts, Michelle Smith, Jay Neal, Allison Ashe, Gabrielle Starr, Steven Hatfield, Dahlia Brown and Salena Perry.

**Called to Order:** 1:01pm

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Tom Rawlings, DFCS Division Director**
	1. ***Updates and announcements***
		1. The previous meeting minutes were approved with the amendment to add Diane Scoggins and Judith Fouts as October meeting attendees. The amended minutes will be emailed to the Safe Harbor Commission members.
		2. An Executive Order from the Governor’s Office recently appointed Director Rawlings as the Chair of the Safe Harbor Commission.
		3. Commission members agreed to appoint a Co-Chair to the commission.
		4. Allison Ashe and Jay Neal are new commission members.
* Allison is the President and Chief Executive Officer at Wellroot Family Services. She previously worked at Covenant House. She will be replacing Hal Jones She will be serving on both the Protocol and Safe Harbor Fund subcommittees.
* Jay is the Executive Director for the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and will replace the previous CJCC appointment, Major Andy Hite. Jay was appointed by Ron Freeman who serves as Chairman of the CJCC Coordinating Council.
	+ 1. There were no new updates from the Attorney General’s Office regarding legislation around access to funding.
		2. The Safe Harbor Commission agreed to begin creating rules and regulations for the commission. Tom Rawlings, Chris Hempfling, Diane Scoggins, Judith Fouts, and Allison Ashe agreed to work together to create a draft of the rules and regulations due by the next Safe Harbor Commission meeting.
1. **Subcommittee Reports**
	1. 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 the RFA that has been drafted with the Safe Harbor Commission priorities.
		3. This subcommittee has followed up with LaMarva Ivory about submitting the proposal to appropriate funds through DHS, pending the filing of the rules and regulations with the Secretary of State’s office.
	2. State Protocol - Rachel Davidson, Director for the Office of the Child Advocate and Amy Hutsell, Program Director with CJCC Victim Assistance
		1. In a previous subcommittee meeting, the members discussed using the DFCS protocol as a foundation.
		2. The subcommittee is currently working on finalizing a draft of the protocol.
		3. The Commission rules and regulations will have to be established before the protocol can be formalized.
		4. Rachel Davidson shared that her office has a Model Child Abuse Protocol that is almost ready for feedback and review. She would like for the commission to review it and possibly incorporate some of that protocol to the Safe Harbor Commission Protocol.
		5. She also shared the difference between the plans:
			1. The service delivery plan applies to children and adults regarding sex and labor trafficking. The service delivery plan is a state -wide effort that includes a best practices approach.
			2. The protocol that is a part of the Commission’s responsibility is applicable to children who are victims of sex trafficking. The protocol includes specific steps that relevant agencies should take throughout the process.
		6. Tom Rawlings shared information regarding a recent meeting with Emma Hetherington from the CEASE Clinic. This clinic is looking to expand into more general dependency representation of children including representing child victims of commercial sex exploitation.
			1. Mr. Rawlings would like to meet again with Ms. Hetherington and include Chris Hempfling, Mary Frances Bowley, Rachel Davidson and the rest of the Commission to discuss possibly linking the clinic to the victims that we work with.
	3. Communications – Susan Boatwright, DFCS Special Projects Consultant
		1. This sub-committee agreed to meet as needed to review or create any marketing or PR content.
		2. The Communications sub-committee has been publicly posting the announcement for the Safe Harbor Commission meetings on the DFCS website at least 24 hours prior to meetings.
2. **Other Business**
	* 1. A joint meeting with the Safe Harbor Commission and the Grace Commission in March or May.
			1. LaMarva Ivory and Susan Boatwright agreed to coordinate with Alex Beyer to plan the meeting.
3. **Next Steps**
	* 1. The Commission agreed to meet bi-monthly in the middle of the month.
		2. A calendar for the year will be emailed for upcoming Commission meetings.
		3. A report from the AG’s office regarding the litigation and the funding amounts will be emailed to the Commission.
		4. A draft copy of the Safe Harbor Protocol will be emailed to the Commission for review.
		5. A draft of the rules and regulations for the Safe Harbor Commission will be available by the next Commission meeting.
		6. A list of the Commission members and their contact information and a list of auxiliary members who regularly attend will be emailed to the Commission.
		7. A press release announcing the appointment of the new commission members will be created and distributed.

**Meeting Adjourned: 1:39pm**