**Safe Harbor Commission Meeting**

**August 24, 2020,10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting Attendees:** Amy Hutsell, Dahlia Brown, Tom Rawlings, April Hale, Dianne Scoggins, Honorable Judith Fouts, Susan Boatwright, LaMarva Ivory, Theresa Schiefer, Nick Smith, Alex Sponseller, Alex Beyer, Major Andy Hite, Melissa Carter, Rachel Davidson, Elina Acosta, Erica Mortonson, Kylie Harrod, Jay Neal, James Kizer, Kristy Carter, Michelle Smith, Melissa Moats, Tyrone Oliver, Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Gabrielle Starr, Steven Hatfield and Salena Perry.

**Meeting Start Time:** 10:04am

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Call to Order – Tom Rawlings, DFCS Division Director** 
   1. ***Updates and announcements***
      1. Director Rawlings gave an update on the State budget. Instead of a 14% cut, the State incurred a 10% cut.
      2. There were no furloughs.
      3. Senate Bill 823 was signed. This bill states that anyone involved in commercial trafficking are banned from getting a CDL license.
      4. The GBI has a new Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) team to help tackle trafficking.
      5. Dahlia Brown is transitioning from DFCS to the Woodruff Foundation at the end of August. LaMarva Ivory will be transitioning into Dahlia’s position.
   2. ***New Chair Recommendations and Commission member discussion***
      1. April Hale expressed interest in being the New Chair to the Commission via email.
      2. The commission agreed to move forward with appointing a new chair and to continue searching for another Commission member.
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. The court entered an order on summary judgment on April 2, 2020, which denied the clubs’ motion in all respects except for its constitutional vagueness challenge as to subpart (1)(B) of OCGA 15-21-201 which dealt with lingerie modeling studios. Because the court “granted” the clubs’ motion, it appeared that the entirety of OCGA 15-21-201 was struck down.
4. A few days later, the clubs moved for entry of final judgment so that the entire tax was unconstitutional and enjoined. At the same time, the AG's office moved to sever subpart (B) and for entry of an order upholding the remainder of the tax on nude dancing establishments and massage parlors.
5. The clubs responded to our motion and also moved to request reconsideration of the court’s ruling on the other grounds in which the court denied their motion for summary judgment.
6. On June 16, 2020, the court granted the motion to sever subpart (B), and upheld the remainder of the tax as lawful and not enjoined. The court also denied the clubs’ motion for reconsideration.
7. Therefore, at present, the tax is only unconstitutional and enjoined for lingerie modeling studios. The tax can still be collected on nude dancing establishments, massage parlors, etc.
8. The AG's office plans to appeal the ruling which found subpart (B) unconstitutional and expects the clubs to appeal or cross-appeal.
9. The account balance is around $600,000. Once all establishments begin to pay, it will be easier to estimate the amount of money available on an annual basis.
10. Establishments are required to pay or appeal within 30 days of an assessment. There is a penalty for delayed payments.
11. **Subcommittee Reports** 
    1. Safe Harbor Fund - Kristy Carter, Victim Assistance Division Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)
       1. The sub-committee met July 31st to review CJCC’s administration of funds, eligibility criteria, the process of releasing funds and priority areas.
       2. Funds from the Safe Harbor Commission will have to be appropriated before CJCC is able to release a competitive solicitation for commission member review and approval.
       3. Funding will be prioritized for the Receiving Hope Center and Safe Home providers.
       4. The appropriation will go directly to DFCS.
       5. CJCC sent minutes from the sub-committee meeting as well as a PowerPoint presentation reviewing priorities, eligibility, and funding process administered by CJCC that was used in the subcommittee meeting.
       6. The allocated amount for disbursement is $125,000.
       7. Funds might not be able to be released until March 2021.
       8. CJCC is working on a MOU with DFCS and OCA.
       9. April Hale motioned to move forward with preparing to release the funds when they become available. Dianne Scoggins seconded the motion. The motioned was passed.
    2. State Protocol - Rachel Davidson, Director for the Office of the Child Advocate and Amy Hutsell, Program Director with CJCC Victim Assistance
       1. The Commission is tasked with developing a state-wide protocol to help coordinate the delivery of services to sexually exploited children.
       2. The Statewide service delivery plan gives a broader overview on the state’s response to human trafficking which includes adults, children, labor and sex trafficking.
       3. The protocol is more specific to children and sex trafficking.
       4. The DFCS Human Trafficking protocol will be used as starting point and will be modified as needed.
       5. The sub-committee members are reviewing the draft of the plan and the DFCS protocol.
       6. They will meet in September to edit the plan and protocol.
       7. They hope to have the plan and protocol completed or near completion at the end of the year.
    3. Communications – Susan Boatwright, DFCS Special Projects Consultant
       1. This sub-committee agreed to meet as needed to review any marketing or PR distributions from the Commission.
       2. They agreed to make themselves available to the GRACE Commission on anything related to marketing and PR.
12. **Update on the new CSEC/DMST State Response – Kristy Carter, Victim Assistance Division Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and Amy Hutsell, Program Director with CJCC Victim Assistance**
    1. There is a transition of TANF funded services from Georgia Cares to the Children Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA).
    2. There have been several transition meetings between DFCS, CJCC, OCA and CACGA.
    3. The transition should be completed by September 30th.
    4. The DMST hotline will most likely be staffed by paid personnel to ensure accountability on response.
    5. There is a possibility that the DMST hotline number will be retained by Georgia Cares.
    6. The HEAT Unit is a specialized unit at the GBI that is devoted to investigating adult human trafficking and labor trafficking.
    7. Victor Williams is the new task force coordinator for HEAT.
13. **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.
14. **Next Steps – Tom Rawlings, Dahlia Bell-Brown, DFCS Deputy Division Director**
    1. Tom will be reaching out to the Lieutenant Governor’s Office and the Governor’s Office regarding the appointment of a chair and to fill the commission vacancy.
    2. The First Lady is interested having a joint in-person meeting with the Grace Commission, in October.
    3. The next Safe Harbor Commission meeting will be Tuesday, October 20th from 10am-12pm.

**Meeting Ended: 11:34am**