



**Safe Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes**  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, September 8, 2022  
Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Attendees:** Allison Ashe, Dianne Scoggins, April Hale, Judith Fouts, Theresa Schiefer, Amy Boney, Kristy Carter, Amy Hutsell, LaMarva Ivory, Gabrielle Starr, Lindsey Cheatham, Steven Hatfield, Erica Atzenhoffer, Trishi Malhotra, Robin Herron and Salena Perry.

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

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order – Co-Chair Dianne Scoggins**
  - a. Call to Order
    - i. Co-Chair Scoggins called the meeting to order at 10:02am.
  - b. Roll Call
    - i. Salena took roll which resulted in a quorum. The Commission members that were present were Co-Chair Dianne Scoggins, April Hale, Judith Fouts, Allison Ashe, and Theresa Schiefer.
  - c. Approval of the Minutes
    - i. The motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Allison and seconded by April.
  - d. Approval of Agenda
    - ii. The motion to approve the agenda was made by April and seconded by Judith.
  - e. General updates and announcements
    - i. The joint Safe Harbor and Grace Commission meeting is still pending. Jacob Cone has transitioned from the Governor's office. Ansley Reeves has assumed his responsibilities. Salena has reached out to Ansley and will continue to follow up to schedule a possible fourth quarter meeting.
    - ii. The accomplishments of the Safe Harbor Commission were discussed. The Commission members would like to submit press releases to local media after a discussion with Commissioner Broce.
    - iii. CJCC agreed to put together a presentation updating their trafficking initiatives and projects to the Commission.
    - iv. CJCC has provided press releases for the Safe Harbor Commission which will be emailed to the Commission and archived in Microsoft Teams.
- II. **Standard Order of Business**
  - a. Safe Harbor Grant FY21 Updates
    - i. Kristy gave updates on the Safe Harbor Commission applicants and recommendations.
    - ii. There were five agents that were awarded funding in FY21. Those agents were Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA) \$70,000, Gigi's House



- \$50,000, Micah's Promise \$100,000, University of Georgia Research Foundation -CEASE Clinic \$50,000, and Wellspring Living \$30,000.
- iii. CACGA assisted with 5 hotline calls as well as 26 referrals from agencies such as law enforcement, DFCS, Independent Court, Children's Advocacy Centers, and the greater community. They also provided 181 services for 38 clients.
  - iv. Micah's Promise was awarded funds to secure fencing and add a security gate around the property. The installation of the fencing and security gate will begin once the construction of the two-bedroom wings, sports court, outdoor classroom, and the extension of the parking lot is completed. They anticipate the completion of the project in October 2022.
  - v. The University of Georgia CEASE Clinic was awarded funds to expand current services to Athens-Clarke, Gwinnett, Chatham and Douglas County. They provided 44 survivors with legal services ranging from screening and assessment to legal advice to representation in legal proceedings. They also provided a variety of non-legal services to survivors including needs assessments, benefits eligibility assessment, counseling referrals, and support during legal and non-legal proceedings.
  - vi. Wellspring was awarded funds to expand access to services for unfunded/noncustodial minors of human trafficking victims by using trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions to achieve increased safety and wellbeing for victims. Wellspring served a total of 24 unfunded youth through the Receiving Hope Center (RHC).
  - vii. Salena agreed to reach out to the First Lady's Office to help schedule the joint Safe Harbor and Grace Commission meeting.
- b. Safe Harbor Grant FY22 Updates
- i. Applications for the FY22 Safe Harbor Grant were due April 1, 2022. Initial awards will be distributed from July 1, 2022 -June 30, 2023.
  - ii. CJCC received four applications requesting \$756,941 in FY2022 Safe Harbor Commission grant program funds. The recommended award total was \$351,005.00.
  - iii. Micah's Promise requested \$165,000. The recommended amount was \$62,000.
  - iv. Tharro's Place, Inc. requested \$191,941. The recommended amount was \$75,000. CJCC coordinated a meeting between Commission members and Tharro's Place to discuss questions/concerns.
  - v. University of Georgia Research Foundation requested \$100,000. The recommended amount was \$72,000.
  - vi. Wellspring Living, Inc. requested \$300,000. The recommended amount was \$142,005.
  - vii. All applicants were approved for the recommended amounts.



- viii. Salena agreed to reach out to the DHS finance department and the ATG's office for updates about the pending lawsuit and the remaining amount of funds available for the Safe Harbor Commission.
- c. Commission Member terms and appointments
  - i. The Commission members agreed to have a meeting with Commissioner Broce concerning a retraining/refreshing of the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and moving forward as a Commission.
  - ii. The motion to relieve Judge Angela Rogers according to the Bylaws, was made by Theresa and seconded by Judith. The motion passed.
  - iii. A letter of thanks will be emailed/mailed to Judge Rogers for her service on the Safe Harbor Commission.
  - iv. Commissioner Broce will appoint another person to take over Judge Roger's role according to the Safe Harbor Commission Bylaws.

III. **Next Steps**

- a. There will be a meeting with the Commissioner and the rest of the Safe Harbor Commission members to further discuss press releases, terms for commission members, and a review of the bylaws and the history of the Safe Harbor Commission.
- b. Salena will continue to reach out to the Governor's Office to schedule a joint meeting.
- c. Salena will reach out to the ATG's Office as well as the DHS finance department for updates on the pending lawsuit and the remaining funds available in the Safe Harbor Commission account.
- d. Co-Chair Scoggins and Kristy agreed to reach out to Director Jerry Bruce of the Office of the Child Advocate to invite him to the Safe Harbor Commission meetings.
- e. Members of General Council, DHS Finance department, and the ATG's office will be invited to all future Safe Harbor Commission meetings.
- f. The Commission members agreed to review previous minutes, the Bylaws, and the Committees that were created within the Safe Harbor Commission.

IV. **Adjournment**

- a. The motion to adjourn was made by April and seconded by Judith. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:18am**