**Safe Harbor Commission Meeting**

June 2, 2020

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Commission members present:** Tom Rawlings (DFCS Division Director), Theresa Shiefer, Honorable Angela Rogers, April Hale, Judith Fouts, Dianne Scoggins and Major Andy Hite

**Commission members absent:** Hal Jones

**Other attendees:** First Lady Marty Kemp, Nicholas Smith (Director of External Affairs and Public Policy, Attorney General’s Office), Alex Sponseller (Senior Assistant Attorney General), Kristy Carter (Victim Assistance Division Director of Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), Amy Hutsell (Program Director with CJCC Victim Assistance), Jay Neal (Executive Director of CJCC), Steven Hatfied (Deputy Director of CJCC), Tyrone Oliver (Commissioner of DJJ), Rachel Davidson, (Director of the Office of the Child Advocate), Kat Satterfield, Erica Mortonson (CJCC).

**DFCS staff:** Dahlia Brown, Susan Boatwright, Dr. Gabrielle Starr, James Kizer and Salena Perry

* Welcome and housekeeping by Director Tom Rawlings. The meeting started at 1:06pm.
* Role call by Dahlia Brown.
* Review of the agenda.
* Director Rawlings discussed the purpose of the gathering, gave updates and introduced Diane Scoggins. Diane shared her background.
* Chair and commission member replacement for Hal Jones. Due to a conflict with his work schedule, Hal has stepped down from being the Chair of the Safe Harbor Commission.
* State budget cuts were discussed. State agencies have submitted 14% budget cuts to the legislature.
* Budget hearings will take place between June 1st and June 11th. The legislature will provide a budget between June 11th and June 30th. There will be no cuts made to human trafficking efforts.
* First Lady Marty Kemp acknowledged the Commission and thanked them for their efforts in helping to eliminate human trafficking.
* Overview of Legislation and Update on the Pending Lawsuit/Nicholas Smith and Alex Sponseller.
  + - Explanation of the Judge Russell’s ruling:
    - Judge Russell issued a decision on summary judgement upheld the entire law except one part on a vagueness challenge directed to lingerie modeling studios (Code Section 15-21-201).
    - Sub-part B was considered constitutionally vague. This means that the rest of the law will be enforced except for sub-part B pending appeal.
    - An additional motion to severe was made, and Judge Russell said that she will rule by June 12th.
    - The estimated amount of money in this fund is $400,000-$500,000. The funds are in an interest-bearing account.
* Updates from OCA:
  + - The Statewide Human Trafficking Service Delivery Plan addresses the delivery of services to sexually exploited children and children who are at risk of being sexually exploited.
    - The Commission is tasked with creating a statewide protocol for helping to coordinate the delivery of services to sexually exploited children.
    - The draft of the Statewide Human Trafficking Service Delivery Plan was emailed to all attendees of the meeting.
    - The plan will be shared with the Grace Commission, DJJ, GBI, Attorney General’s Office, Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, Georgia Coalition to combat Human Trafficking, and others to review the plan and provide feedback.
    - Feedback can be sent to Rachel’s email address, rdavidson@oca.ga.gov.
    - The Commission was asked to consider which part of the plan to take the lead on.
    - The deadline for feedback is needed by June 15th.
  + Updates from CJCC:
* The Receiving Hope Center has implemented a multi- disciplinary pre- team meeting. Stakeholders (DFCS, Forensic interviewers from the Georgia Center, medical staff, mental health professionals and the Receiving Hope Center Staff) within a case will come together prior to receiving admitting youth to a center and discus how to meet the needs of the youth.
* The Receiving Hope Center has added a full time and part time nurse practitioner as well as a 24/7 on-call SANE Patient Advocate.
* The Paulding County EMS, Fire Fighters and Sheriff’s Department contract with Wellspring Living to assist with de-escalation to improve safety and security.
* The Receiving Hope Center has partnered with Highland Rivers Health which provides a 24/7 Psychiatric Nurse.
* There are two grant opportunities that CJCC are pursuing for the Receiving Hope Center.
* The Competitive TANF RFA Funding Opportunity closed June 1st.
* There were five applicants.
* Initial award period will be July1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
* Up to $850,000 will be released for the four purpose areas: the established and operation of a 24/7 minor trafficking hotline, conduct assessment for suspected trafficked minors, provide community- based follow up and aftercare services, and develop and conduct training.
* An external review panel consisting of representatives from the Governor’s Office, DFCS, DJJ, OCA, Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, CJCC and the Safe Harbor Commission will review the applications and determine funding awards.
* Other Updates:
* Melissa Carter from the Barton Child Law and Policy Center of Emory.
* Working with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to develop a judicial bench book so judges might be more informed about getting services for CSEC victims.
* Funded along with Rollins School of Public Health at Emory, Youth Spark, and the Center for Civil and Human Rights to undertake the Sparking Systemic Change Grant.
* This is a three-year project that will look at program evaluation for community- based models of services and addressing systemic issues to access to services for survivors.
* Next Steps
  + - Choosing a Chair for the Commission.
    - The next meeting for the Commission will be scheduled for late August.
    - The agenda will include the State Plan, the new State Response, virtual tour of the Receiving Center, and the disbursement of funds.
    - Once the agenda is completed, a small group of people will come together and tackle each of the points on the agenda prior to the Commission meeting and make a presentation to the group.
    - It was suggested that the virtual tour of the Receiving Hope Center can be sent to those that haven’t experienced the tour to save time at the next Commission meeting.
* The meeting ended at 2:16pm.