



Safe Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, September 15, 2023
Microsoft Teams

Meeting Attendees: Commissioner Candice Broce, Jay Neal, April Hale, Theresa Schiefer, Judith Fouts, Grant Thomas, Dianne Scoggins, Craig Foster, LaMarva Ivory, Jackie Tate, Demetrius Taylor, Dr. Shaun Johnson, Takissia Davis, Robin Herron, Emma McCullough, Emily Hatchett, Kristy Carter, Amy Hutsell, Erica Atzenhoffer, Dr. Shaun Johnson, and Salena Perry.

Called to Order:

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order –Commissioner Candice Broce**
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Scoggins at 1:07pm.
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. Salena took roll, which resulted in a quorum. The Commission members that were present were Commissioner Broce, Jay Neal, April Hale, Judith Fouts, Theresa Schiefer, Dianne Scoggins, and Grant Thomas.
 - c. Approval of Minutes
 - i. The motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Commissioner Broce and seconded by Theresa Schiefer.
 - ii. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - d. Approval of Agenda
 - i. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Judith Fouts and seconded by Jay Neal.
 - ii. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - e. General Updates and Announcements
 - i. There were no general updates or announcements.
- II. **Standard Order of Business**
 - a. Safe Harbor Financial Review with Deputy Commissioner of Finance, Demetrius Taylor
 - i. The funding appropriated via legislation for the following state fiscal years:
 - 2021: \$299,987
 - 2022: \$351,005
 - 2023: \$110,586
 - 2024: \$ 7,333.40 (year-to-date through August 2023)
 - ii. The Georgia Office of State Treasurer has confirmed all the money received thus far, has been allocated via the appropriation process.
 - iii. Safe Harbor Commission fund interest earned by state fiscal year:
 - 2021: \$0.29
 - 2022: \$1,342.79
 - 2023: \$27,211.99
 - 2024: \$7,333.40 (year-to-date through August 2023)



- iv. The total monies that have been spent to date is \$299,987. This funding was allocated to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).
 - v. The process of collecting and receiving Safe Harbor Commission funds are as follows:
 - The Georgia Department of Revenue collects the funds (tax) from adult entertainment businesses. The collections are on a lag period.
 - The funds are appropriated by the legislature and the governor's office.
 - The Commission received confirmation in November from Attorney Ron Stay that these funds are available to be used without penalty, despite the pending lawsuit.
 - After funds have been appropriated, they move to DHS to the Safe Harbor Commission account which is allocated to CJCC for distribution to awardees of the Safe Harbor's RFP.
 - Mr. Taylor provided additional documents for the Commission's reference regarding the Safe Harbor funding process.
 - b. Grace's Place-Devereux Discussion and Vote
 - i. The General Assembly approved \$3.375M to be awarded to Grace's Place – Devereux.
 - ii. Grace's Place is a state-licensed twenty-four bed facility for children and young adults who have been sexually exploited or are at risk of sexual exploitation.
 - iii. Upon the Commission's approval, Grace's Place will be operated through a public-private partnership with the State of Georgia (the Departments of Human Services and Juvenile Justice and the Georgia Devereux Treatment Network). This public-private partnership will run through the current fiscal year.
 - iv. The \$3.375M will cover most of the costs for Grace's Place and the Department of Human Services (DHS) will cover the rest. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget will be working with DHS to get the difference added into the base budget of the Safe Harbor Commission to continue funding Grace's Place at the full amount.
 - v. In future years, this funding will go through the standard process established between CJCC and the Safe Harbor Commission.
 - vi. A motion to vote for the appropriation of funds was made by Jay Neal and seconded by April Hale.
 - vii. The motion carried.
- III. **Closing Comments**
- a. The MOU between DHS and CJCC is being finalized. Once finalized, Commission will have a special meeting to discuss approval for an RFP.
 - b. CJCC has already drafted and RFP for the Commission to review at the next Safe Harbor Commission meeting.



IV. **Adjournment**

- a. The motion to adjourn was made by April Hale and seconded by Judith Fouts.
- b. The motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:06pm

DRAFT