

# Juvenile Detention Commission for Northern Virginia

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 09, 2024

**Call to Order:** Mr. Conklin called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

### ATTENDEES

**Members present:** Mr. Earl Conklin (Arlington – Chairperson) Mrs. Marguarite Gooden (Arlington) Mrs. Sonnja Brown (Alexandria) Mr. Yon Lambert (Alexandria)

**Staff present:** Ms. Johnitha McNair, Mr. Ian Rachal, Mr. Jahi Banks, Ms. Emily Anne Reiney, Dr. Seazante` W. Oliver (ACPS), Ms. Brianna Cain, Ms. Anita Robinson, Leroy White

**Other Attendees:** Mr. Neil Title (Attorney), Mr. Charles Smith, Ms. Nadine Smith and Mr. Amir Farshchian of 3-iT Accounting & Financial Services Corporation, Ms. Zakiya Worthey of KLamb, Mr. Mike Mackey (CSU-Alexandria), Mr. Luis Pitarque of Dewberry Architects, Mr. David Hackworth of Mosley Architects, Mr. Roberto Gomez of Even Scale, Mr. John Lawrence, Mrs. Ellen Dague J.D., and Mr. Jack Gouldin

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes were approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

### COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR AND COMMISIONERS:

#### COMMISSION BUSINESS

**Fencing/Safety Concerns:** Ms. McNair reported that due to several recent incidents, she has begun gathering fencing proposals to prevent public access to the center's grounds and enhance safety. Currently, the public can access the grounds while residents are arriving or leaving Sheltercare, often leaving litter and dog waste behind. Ms. McNair recommended that the commission approve the installation of a wrought iron fence around the campus to improve safety. Mr. Rachal noted that one of the contractors has experience working in Alexandria and Arlington County, and the cost difference lies in the materials being used. Mr. Lambert asked about the funding source, and Ms. McNair said it would come from the budget. Mr. Lambert also inquired if the Capital Improvement Project had been considered, to which Ms. McNair responded that she had not yet considered it but was open to the idea.

Ms. Reiney mentioned that she has limited residents from going outside because neighborhood children can easily see them and may have been the ones threatening a resident at Sheltercare. Ms. McNair emphasized the urgency of the safety concerns. Ms. Gooden stated that a recent incident was disturbing, and Ms. Brown agreed it was a safety issue. A discussion followed, during which Ms. Gooden called it an emergency and moved to accept the recommendation. Ms. Brown asked if there was an alternative plan, and Ms. McNair stated there was not. Ms. Brown seconded the motion.

Mr. Conklin asked about the timeline for obtaining a third quote, and Ms. McNair said she would work on it but was unsure of the timeframe. Ms. Reiney noted that police response times were slow, with Mr. Rachal pointing out a 35-minute response time in Alexandria. Mr. Lambert expressed appreciation for the staff's concerns but needed more information before supporting the proposal. Ms. McNair asked for clarity on expectations when securing partnerships, noting a past instance where she was asked only to provide quotes without presenting proposals.

Mrs. Gooden expressed trust in Ms. McNair's expertise, and Mr. White shared an example of deterring teenagers who had entered the grounds. Ms. Dague recounted an incident involving young men with what appeared to be an air gun and emphasized the importance of reviewing the insurance policy to avoid gross negligence. Mrs. Gooden motioned for the installation of perimeter fencing. Mr. Conklin stated that while he has concerns, he would support the motion. Mrs. Brown supported the motion; Mr. Lambert did not support the motion. The motion carried.

**Interjurisdictional Agreement:** Mr. Title stated that he sent out an email with some philosophical questions for the jurisdictions to consider. He noted confusion about whether the annual budget should account for incoming funds from other sources and pointed out conflicts in the agreement regarding this. Additionally, there are questions about how cash on hand should be divided among jurisdictions in the event of dissolution and what happens to the value of the commission's real estate holdings. Mr. Title mentioned that Fairfax County would receive proceeds from a liquidation and provided a document for review, highlighting these issues.

Mr. Lambert requested that Mr. Title's questions be incorporated into the documents for review at the next meeting. Mr. Conklin recommended adding language on maintaining the capital reserve. Mr. Conklin will collaborate with Mr. Title to draft language on handling carry-forward funds.

## **REPORTS**

**Financial Report:** Mr. Smith presented the financial report for the eleven months leading up to May. Total assets decreased from \$10.4 million to \$9.9 million. In May, the Center received \$74.9 thousand in per diem income, \$28.6 thousand in USDA income, and \$20.4 thousand in interest income on the Capital Reserve. By the end of April, there was a surplus of \$512 thousand. The Detention Center's new revenue in May was \$126.9 thousand, bringing the total revenue for the first eleven months to \$5.2 million. Mr. Smith noted that jurisdictional revenue is at 100% of the budget, and both the State Block Grant and USDA Program are above their budgeted amounts.

Ms. McNair mentioned that the budget is being reconciled. Mr. Conklin asked for an update on the ORR funds. Ms. McNair stated that all paperwork has been completed, and she is awaiting a response. She recommended using some of these funds to cover any shortfall experienced by Sheltercare.

Mr. Smith reported that Sheltercare's total assets in May were \$1.7 million, down from \$1.9 million in April, due to limited new revenue. Equity decreased from \$1.3 million to \$1.1 million,

with total revenues at \$1.5 million. The auditors have received all requested documentation, and a draft report may be completed in the next few weeks. A brief discussion followed.

#### Executive Director's Report:

Ms. McNair provided an overview of the facility needs and capital improvement plan, which included replacing carpet in the education wing, painting the facility, and painting and furnishing unit seven. Quotes are being received for lock and door repairs. The maintenance engineer will be hired as an employee, ending the contract with the temp agency. Ms. McNair reported that hiring efforts continue, with ten offers currently extended to potential candidates. The current population is 37, providing some relief from the previous count of over 50. Last month, there were 160 family visits for 110 residents, and two serious incidents occurred.

#### Care Center Report:

Ms. Reiney reported a high utilization rate of 98% with sixteen residents aged 12 to 14. The staff includes 17 full-time employees, and four interviews are scheduled. The residents are participating in six groups a day instead of the usual four, and they have started screen printing and yoga classes. There were six reportable incidents, including one where a child went to another child's family home, resulting in arrests. Ms. Reiney suggested considering DSS placements on a per diem rate if space is available.

NVJDC Principal: No report.

#### Ms. Worthey's Report:

Ms. Worthey reported that the updated employee manual is complete. She plans to meet with Ms. McNair and Ms. Cain soon. All training sessions have been completed, and a staffing analysis is underway, expected to be completed by the next meeting.

Neil Title: No report.

#### CSU (Court Services Unit) Directors Reports:

Alexandria: No report.

Arlington: Mr. Conklin reported hosting the 18th annual gang prevention soccer tournament with 104 youth participants.

#### Retreat:

Ms. Gooden proposed a staff/commission retreat for team building and trust development. Mackey stated that he follows the leadership's procedures for addressing issues brought to his attention. Ms. Gooden highlighted the need for team building to address concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.