

Juvenile Detention Commission for Northern Virginia

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Members present: Mr. Earl Conklin (Chair-Arlington), Mr. Mike Mackey (Alexandria), Ms. Zakiya Worthey (Arlington), Ms. Sonnja Brown (Alexandria)

Staff present: Ms. Johnitha McNair (Executive Director) Mr. Ian Rachal, Mr. Jahi Banks, Ms. Emily Anne Reiney, Ms. Aquilah Munir, Dr. Victor Martin

Staff present virtually: Brian Ellis, Carolyn Pucciarelli

Others present virtually: Mr. Neil Title (Attorney), Mr. Charles Smith and Mr. Amir Farshchian of 3-iT Accounting & Financial Services Corporation, and Mr. Andrew McVeigh of Mosley Architects

Mr. Conklin called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Brown motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Mackey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS: Mr. Conklin opened the meeting by speaking of the new changes affecting the agency. Mr. Mackey commented that it was nice to see everyone in person after being virtual for so long and reiterated his ongoing thanks to staff at the ShelterCare and the Center. Ms. Worthey extended her gratitude to everyone for their assistance in the transition at ShelterCare and thanked Dr. Martin for all of his work at the Center. Ms. Brown echoed the sentiments of the others and thanked Dr. Martin as well for his efforts.

STAFF & OTHER REPORTS

Android Scanner Demonstration: Ms. Munir provided a demonstration of the device, that would be used to document room checks, observations, meal checks, medication administration and specialized observations, and other critical evolutions. The device would be compatible with our current resident management system. Mr. Mackey inquired if the device was equipped to provide notifications or reminders to conduct checks. Ms. Munir confirmed that the units had the capability to provide notifications and reminders. Mr. Conklin asked what the experience would be like for a resident. Ms. McNair stated that they would be getting the resident's feedback about the devices, considering whether the new experience might be traumatizing. Ms. Munir noted that there are some creative ways to approach this, even creating id badges.

Sheltercare Update: Ms. McNair reported Brian Ellis, long time staff had been designated the Acting Assistant Director and Ms. Pucciarelli would be filling in as the Administrative Coordinator. Ms. McNair reported a licensed social worker would replace one of the administrative roles as this would be most beneficial considering the needs of children in the program and being referred for the services. Mr. Ellis introduced himself and thanked Ms. McNair for the opportunity. Ms. Pucciarelli introduced herself and thanked everyone for the opportunity as well.

Approval of NVJDC Virtual Meeting Policy: Mr. Conklin noted that the provided policy was a template retrieved from Arlington County for boards and commissions and would need to be edited before it could be considered for adoption by the Commission. Mr. Title recommended postponing any approval until the proposed policy could be reviewed. Considering the resolution he forwarded and the new statute that took effect September 1st. Mr. Mackey inquired if the members could create through policy a required condition to all meet virtually, for example if covid numbers were rising again. Mr. Title confirmed that with provided certain conditions were met, the law would allow two virtual meetings a year. Ms. Worthey noted that if a member would require being virtual for any reason that the policy reflected that particular scenario. Mr. Title reiterated that for virtual meetings, there are two categories, one for all virtual meetings and the other for members who needed to be virtual. Ms. Worthey made a motion to adopt the current policy, and when more information becomes available or clarification is made, then updates to the policy could be made and adopted in the future. Mr. Mackey seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Financial Report: Mr. Smith reported on the closing of FY22 and reported on the following preliminary standings: total assets of 9.4 million, of those assets, 1.7 million is in the operating account. 4.7 million remains in the capital reserve account. Mr. Smith reported the total income for the year was 4.8 million with 4.7 million in expenses, including depreciation. The net income for the year is \$131,000. The center received 101% revenue and expenditures were about 91%. At the end of FY22 there was a pending payment for USDA which came in in August. Ms. McNair explained the overages in revenue were from a fifth quarter payment from the DJJ Block grant Mr. Smith pointed out in general, the revenue side was right on target. Mr. Smith reported that the year started strong, receiving quarterly payments from the programs and jurisdiction, versus one month of expenditures. The current surplus of \$250,000 will provide funds to cover expenditures while any late first quarter payments come in. Mr. Smith reported a preliminary 2024 budget will be ready by October. Mr. Conklin confirmed the plan is to review and discuss the budget with the hopes of final approval by the November meeting which would also include the finance members from each jurisdiction.

Executive Director's Report: Ms. McNair introduced Brittany Ripper, who is a professor at Marymount University teaching criminal justice, who would be touring the facility next month along with her students. Ms. McNair also noted that the Center has an intern who is a military service-member looking to transition back to civilian life. Ms. McNair reported the population was currently 22 residents. which would affect staff coverage, utilization and overtime until vacancies could be filled and new staff trained. Ms. McNair reported that the findings from the Commission on Youth study had not yet been made public.

NVJDC Principal: Dr. Martin took a moment to sum up his past five years as principal of the school. 14 residents have taken the GED test and all 14 have passed the test. A music program was started which the kids love. The mobile kitchen has been ordered and is awaiting completion of construction in the school wing to be installed. Dr. Martin is working to retain a full-time bilingual therapist. This past school year alone there was an 84% decrease in behavioral referrals. Dr. Martin pointed out that his time at the center had been great with the leadership at the center and the members of the commission. All the members expressed their individual gratitude to Dr. Martin.

Sheltercare Report: Mr. Ellis reported that total utilization was at 92% based on Eight beds. Weekly testing has continued for residents and staff. Currently working to fill all vacancies. Mr. Ellis reported current positions are: seven full-time staff (including Ms. Pucciarelli), three part time staff,

and five relief staff. Current vacancies are: One Social worker 2 senior counselors, one relief counselor and one part time weekend staff. 11 units of therapeutic services were provided in August. All staff are being retrained in emergency procedures which is 90% complete. There were two reported incidents in August. No grievances for the month of August. Ms. McNair pointed out that two psych interns will be reporting to ShelterCare from Child and Family Behavioral Health Services City of Alexandria, Virginia Department of Community and Human Services, Center for Children and Families upon completion of their training.

Neil Title: Mr. Title reported on a new Virginia Supreme Court case concerning sovereign immunity of government entities. Mr. Title said the case was brought against a Rappahannock treatment facility formed by several jurisdiction in the area much like the center. The case alleged the Rappahannock facility failed to protect someone in their care who was abused by an employee. Rappahannock would raise a sovereign immunity defense. The Virginia Supreme Court ruled that the Rappahannock facility was not entitled to sovereign immunity for a number of technical issues, one of those reason being how the entity was formed . Mr. Title pointed out the interest in this wa specific to past cases dealing with alleged wrongdoing and counsel using sovereign immunity as a defense. Mr. Title suggested looking back over the insurance policy from the state agency to ensure what coverages apply and for whom and if limits are suitable and acceptable. Mr. Conklin asked Ms. McNair to provide a statement about coverage for the next meeting.

CSU Directors: Alexandria – Mr. Mackey reported Alexandria Mentoring Partnership has its first full-time coordinator as of last December. Mr. Mackey wanted to point out that mentoring is one of the best things community members could do to help out.

Arlington – Mr. Conklin reported there is one mentoring program, which has about ten kids. Mr. Conklin wanted to underscore and support Mr. Mackey’s sentiments about mentoring.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

No Executive Session.