

MINUTES
COLONIAL GROUP HOME COMMISSION
9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 2, 2020

MEETING CONVENED

A meeting of the Colonial Group Home Commission Executive Committee was called to order at 9:39 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, by Chair Stephen Kopczynski through the use of electronic means without a quorum being physically assembled in one place, pursuant to an emergency ordinance no. 20-11, adopted by the York County Board of Supervisors April 21, 2020, and readopted on June 16, 2020, pertaining to the continuity of county operations associated with the COVID-9 pandemic disaster.

This meeting is being held remotely under the emergency “continuity of government” ordinance adopted under Code of Virginia section 15.2-1413, allowing public meetings of this Board, and other county boards, commissions, and authorities, to meet remotely. This action was taken because of the health emergency resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, making the assembly of the board and staff and members of the public in one place unsafe because of the highly contagious nature of the coronavirus pandemic.

I am Stephen Kopczynski, Chair and I am in the Public Safety Building located at 301 Goodwin Neck Road. Other Board members participating are Ms. Rebecca Vinroot, Ms. Lisa Kersey, and Ms. Wendy Evans will join in later. Other County staff present or participating are Brian Fuller, Community Services Director/Commission Administrator; Sheri Newcomb, Community Services Deputy Director; Amy Crotty, Juvenile Services Manager; Michelle Justiniano, Juvenile Services Management Analyst; Katie Lofquist, Case Work Specialist; and Nancy Bennett, Administrative Assistant.

ROLL CALL

The following members of the Colonial Group Home Commission Executive Committee were present at roll call: Mr. Stephen Kopczynski, Chair; Ms. Rebecca Vinroot, Vice-Chair; Ms. Lisa Kersey, and Ms. Wendy Evans, will join later.

Approval of Minutes. On motion of Ms. Vinroot and seconded by Ms. Kersey, the minutes of June 3, 2020, Executive Committee meeting were approved. On roll call, the vote was: Yea (3), Vinroot, Kopczynski, and Ms. Kersey, Nay (0).

On motion of Ms. Vinroot and seconded by Mr. Kopczynski, the minutes of August 12, 2020, Executive Committee meeting were approved. On roll call, the vote was Yea (2), Vinroot, and Kopczynski, Nay (0), and Abstain-Ms. Kersey.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Crossroads Update

Staffing.

Mr. Fuller advised the Commission that the staff members affected by the closure of Crossroads accepted the severance package and are on administrative leave.

Crossroads Building.

Mr. Fuller arranged for Public Works to look at and advise what systems can be shut off and still maintain the integrity of the building. Discussion about the future use of the building has begun with the County and the City of Williamsburg.

Judges meeting.

On Monday, August 17, 2020, Mr. Fuller and Ms. Newcomb met with Juvenile Court Judge Conyers and Judge Smith as well as York County Circuit Court Judge Rizk. The conversation was candid and productive. The Judges were disappointed about the closure of Crossroads, but were very honest and realistic about the decision to close after reading the study-based report. The Judges expressed their desire to be involved in future discussions regarding alternative programming.

Ms. Evans joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Path Forward

Staffing.

Mr. Fuller recognized Ms. Katie Lofquist as a great asset to Juvenile Services, especially most recently as the Case Manager at Crossroads. Due to the closure of Crossroads, Ms. Lofquist is currently researching new program possibilities. The closure of Crossroads has staff re-evaluating and possibly reallocating some duties of the Budget Analysis to other divisions within Community Services.

New Program Initiatives.

Ms. Lofquist advised the Commission Members that she is in the research phase of seeking out programs that best serve our families and our jurisdictions. She has reached out to other jurisdictions in Virginia to determine what their successful programming and is slowly getting responses. Staff are currently reviewing Restorative Justice as it works with diversion children through mediation. The overall goal is to find a program that will best fit the needs of our families and community.

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR REPORT AND REQUESTS

Mr. Fuller suggested that we might be able to meet in person for our next Commission meetings in November.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There were none.

CLOSED SESSION

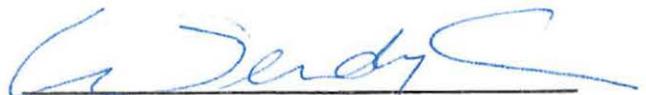
There were no Citizens at this meeting, nor was there a Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Kopczynski, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.



Stephen Kopczynski, Chair
Colonial Group Home Commission



Wendy Evans, Secretary
Colonial Group Home Commission