

## MINUTES

### COLONIAL GROUP HOME COMMISSION 9<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT VIRGINIA

#### REGULAR MEETING September 17, 2020

#### MEETING CONVENED

A meeting of the Colonial Group Home Commission was called to order at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 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.

#### ROLL CALL

I am Stephen Kopczynski, Chair and I am in the Public Safety Building located at 301 Goodwin Neck Road. Other Board members of the Colonial Group Home Commission were present at roll call: Rebecca Vinroot, Vice-Chair; Wendy Evans, Secretary; Tom Mainor, Kimberly Taylor, Christopher McDonald, Lisa Kersey, and Kris Kiley. Others attending the meeting were Brian Fuller, Community Services Director/Commission Administrator; Sheri Newcomb, Community Services Deputy Director; Amy Crotty, Juvenile Services Manager; Michelle Justiniano, Management Analyst; and Nancy Bennett, Juvenile Services Administrative Assistant.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Ms. Kiley, which was seconded by Mr. McDonald, the minutes of August 13, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Commission was approved.

On Roll call, the vote was as follows:

YEA:	(7)	Ms. Evans, Ms. Kiley, Mr. Kopczynski, Mr. Mainor, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Taylor and, Ms. Vinroot
ABSTAIN:	(1)	Ms. Kersey
NAY:	(0)	

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No citizens were present.

## **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. Ms. Taylor requested that Commission members be updated on the status of the staff members 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.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion of Path Forward**

#### **Staffing.**

Due to the closure of Crossroads, and with the recommendation of Court Services Unit, the staff is currently reviewing beginning a program called Restorative Justice as it works with diversion children through mediation. Ms. Lofquist is currently researching new program possibilities.

#### **New Program Initiatives.**

Ms. Crotty advised the Commission Members that she and Ms. Lofquist are in the research phase of seeking out programs that best serve our families and our jurisdictions. They spoke with Joe Jackson, DJJ Court Service Unit Director for the 9th District, and he would like to put in place Restorative Justice. Ms. Crotty and Ms. Lofquist attended introductory training last week and learned that it is a conflict of interest for the Court Service Unit staff to provide Restorative Justice. The program is widely utilized in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Crotty indicated that she has also received positive feedback on developing an Anger Management Program and continuing with Parenting Program. Ms. Lofquist has reached out to other jurisdictions in Virginia to determine what their successful programming looks like and is slowly getting responses. Due to COVID-19, the staff is also looking into developing web-based forms and virtual group programs.

**COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR REPORT AND REQUESTS**

Mr. Fuller expressed interest in developing programs that help juveniles and their families before involvement in the criminal justice system. Mr. Fuller suggested that we might be able to meet in person for our next Commission meetings in November.

**COURT SERVICES UNIT UPDATES AND REPORTS**

There were none.

**MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION**

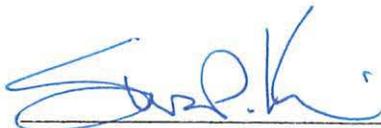
There were none.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.



Stephen Kopczynski, Chair  
Colonial Group Home Commission



Wendy Evans, Secretary  
Colonial Group Home Commission