

## **MINUTES**

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

#### **REGULAR MEETING March 18, 2021**

#### **MEETING CONVENED**

A meeting of the Colonial Group Home Commission was called to order at 4:01 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021, 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-19 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; Lisa Kersey, Thomas Mainor, and Kris Kiley. Christopher McDonald and Kimberly Taylor were absent. Others attending the meeting were the Honorable Holly Smith, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judge for the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; Bruce Call, DJJ Court Service Unit Supervisor; 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 a motion made by Ms. Kiley, which was seconded by Ms. Kersey, the minutes of January 21, 2021, the regular meeting of the Commission was approved.

On Roll call, the vote was as follows:

YEA: (5) Ms. Evans, Mr. Kopczynski, Ms. Kersey, Ms. Kiley and, Ms. Vinroot  
NAY: (0)  
ABSTAIN: (1) Mr. Mainor

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No citizens were present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A Resolution to Credit the Commission’s Non-Recurring Capital Construction Budget Reserve for FY21 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Locality Contribution. Chairman Stephen Kopczynski called for consideration of Proposed Resolution R21-4.

On motion of Mr. Mainor and seconded by Ms. Kiley and carried 6:0, the following resolution was adopted:

On Roll call, the vote was as follows:

YEA: (6) Ms. Evans, Mr. Kopczynski, Mr. Mainor, Ms. Kersey, Ms. Kiley and, Ms. Vinroot  
NAY: (0)

**A RESOLUTION TO CREDIT THE COMMISSION’S NON-RECURRING CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION BUDGET RESERVE FOR FY21 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER LOCALITY CONTRIBUTION.**

WHEREAS, the Colonial Group Home Commission is a public body corporate established pursuant to Section 16.1 - 315 of the Code of Virginia 1950 as amended and was organized and exists pursuant to the contractual agreement dated 12/31/18; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has reviewed the non-recurring capital construction budget reserve and wishes to credit the funds to the localities 4th quarter contribution pursuant to 16.1-322.4 of the Code of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colonial Group Home Commission this 18th day of March 2021, that the Commission’s non-recurring capital construction budget reserve funds be designated as a credit to the localities FY21 4th quarter contribution in the following amounts:

Gloucester	\$27,960
James City County	\$44,136
Williamsburg	\$10,513
York County	\$48,806
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$131,415</b>

Effective Date: March 18, 2021

**Discussion of Commission Name.**

Mr. Fuller noted that he had received many suggestions for a new commission name and that the staff had narrowed the list down to Juvenile Services Commission, Community-Based Commission on Youth, and Colonial Juvenile Services Commission. The commission members voted, and Colonial Juvenile Services Commission received six first-place votes. By acclamation, staff will prepare the amended agreement using Colonial Juvenile Services Commission.

Draft Amended Agreement.

Mr. Fuller presented the draft-amended agreement containing changes. One change is to the name of the commission due to the closure of Crossroads Community Youth Home. The second change is to return the judge, or someone appointed from the court to serve as a non-voting liaison to the board. We also transitioned from the funding model based on the general population to the five-year rolling average utilization model.

**NEW BUSINESS**

VJCCCA Funding.

Mr. Fuller spoke about the challenges of using the VJCCCA funding due in part to Crossroads' closure and the limitations placed on our programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will likely be returning a portion of the unused funds to the state.

The Commission does receive \$293,391 from the state; however, we must spend the Maintenance of Effort local support first. Two new programs were added to our VJCCCA plan, Anger Control Education and Restorative Justice. Since we base everything on service units, we need referrals to be able to use those funds; however, these programs will not start until 7/1/2021. Currently, the number of referrals is low all across the Commonwealth; therefore, state funds may be returned.

COVID Operational Changes.

Mollie DeVane, Program Manager III, shared how COVID-19 has affected our programs and what modifications are in place to ensure clients' and staff's safety while providing services to at-risk and under-served youth. Project Insight is a law-related education and community service work program. We have designated worksites, but at this time, most of the worksites are not accepting youth for community service work. We have incorporated a Family Supervised Program where youth provide community service work in and around their homes to meet intake or court deadlines due to the pandemic. The Law-Related Education Program uses Virginia Law with an evidence-based curriculum emphasizing how the laws apply to young people. Usually, they would attend the first session, receive a homework packet, and return for a second session. To make accommodations due to the pandemic, we send out the homework packet only, once completed, the youth return the packet within a specified period-of-time. We are currently looking into utilizing the Zoom platform for this program, which will help us to incorporate youth from Mathews, Gloucester, Williamsburg, James City County, York County, and Poquoson.

Psychological and Substance Abuse Services is our substance abuse intervention and prevention program, which serves youth in-group settings. We are planning to implement virtual groups; however, at this time we are doing telephone assessments. The staff has been working individually with youth and their families over the phone and drug screens have continued with the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks.

Our most restrictive program is electronic monitoring and intensive supervision. When we receive an electronic monitor referral, the staff goes into the home initially to do the installation. We modified the home visits by conducting the three times weekly home visits outside. The electronic monitoring enrollment has gone entirely mobile, as well as the ability to troubleshoot equipment issues. These modifications have worked exceptionally well to maintain the same high-level quality services.

The staff has come up with some new initiatives to provide services to the community at large. Staff members are working with the Fatherhood Program and Head Start as a preventative initiative, as well as, working to implement a group for single parents in the community on a virtual platform.

Case Manager Position.

Mr. Fuller advised that hiring the case manager position is on hold due to the low referrals and the delay in rolling out the new programs. Ms. Crotty is trained in Restorative Justice and Anger Management and ready to implement these programs when possible.

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR REPORT AND REQUESTS

Mr. Fuller suggested we have a special zoom meeting in April to approve the amended agreement after review by the attorneys.

COURT SERVICES UNIT UPDATES AND REPORTS

There was none.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION

Mr. Kopczynski offered his congratulation to Judge Smith on her appointment to the Circuit Court. He expressed his appreciation for her support and cooperation, including all of the other Juvenile Court Judges


Ms. Crotty expressed her appreciation to our three Social Service Directors, Ms. Evans, Ms. Vinroot, and Ms. Kersey, and wished them a happy March Social Work Month.


CLOSED SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

  
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Stephen Kopczynski, Chair  
Colonial Group Home Commission

  
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Wendy Evans, Secretary  
Colonial Group Home Commission