

Juvenile Detention Commission for Northern Virginia

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 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, Mr. Leroy White, Carolyn Pucciarelli, Dr. Seazante` Oliver (School Principal)

Other Attendees: Mr. Neil Title (Attorney), Mr. Amir Farshchian of 3-iT Accounting & Financial Services Corporation, Zakiya Worthey of KLamb, Mike Mackey(CSU-Alexandria), Luis Pitarque of Dewberry Architects, Craig Hollman of Momar, Vernon Green and Ratisha Smith of GCubed, Justine Sangee and Beau Lamana of Ricata, James Thomas and Javel Green of Koniag Government Services, Todd Schubert of TCI

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR AND COMMISIONERS: Mr. Conklin stated two recurring issues are kids are getting younger and the crimes are becoming more violent. Mr. Conklin wanted to thank detention, shelter care, commissioners and all staff for their efforts in addressing these issues. Ms. Brown noted one of her main jobs is to bring families hope. Ms. Brown spoke about how staff can become natural supports for residents during their time at a facility. Ms. Gooden echoed Ms. Brown’s comments and wanted to point out that with hope comes money. Ms. Gooden stated that members could not lose sight of their main focus.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Update on Jurisdictional Funding for FY25 Budget: Mr. Conklin reported that both Arlington and Falls Church are set to approve their budgets. Mr. Lambert reported that Alexandria will be meeting to approve its budget on May 1st. Ms. Gooden asked if all the questions from the city of Alexandria had been satisfied and answered. Mr. Lambert noted the answers have not been published publicly, and the communication has been between the Office of Management & Budget and staff, which is not unusual. Ms. Gooden inquired if the City of Alexandria understood why the requested amount for funds were needed. Ms. Brown stated she believed that the city did understand. Ms. McNair wanted to reiterate that while there was an increase from last year, the budget itself has not increased rather through her time, the budget has actually decreased. Mr. Lambert stated that the per diem letter contains an inaccurate statement. Ms. McNair noted it would be removed.

Discussion of Interjurisdictional Agreement: Mr. Lambert noted that he had shared with member four areas or themes that could be addressed. Ms. Gooden suggested that a work session be created in order to address not only the agreement but also other commission business. All members agreed to this suggestion. Mr. Conklin noted he would send out some dates for scheduling. Mr. Lambert also noted , a goal of his is to have the center in the city's Capital Improvement Program.

Review of Care Center Staffing Analysis: Ms. Gooden complimented the analysis, and it was a great job. Mr. Lambert noted he provided feedback that Alexandria's Office of Performance Analytics would be a useful partner. Mr. Conklin was interested in Ms. Worthey providing data, what the FTEs had been and what the recommendation is now. Mr. Conklin asked members if they wanted to continue allowing the staffing levels to be set by Ms. McNair or should the members set the levels. Ms. Gooden stated they should be careful not to begin micromanagement. Ms. McNair noted that she has never increased those needs for staffing because it has not been an issue. Mr. Lambert also agreed that micromanagement is not the answer. Mr. Lambert made a motion to have the Executive Director work with the city's Office of Analytics to come up with a staffing relief factor that can be presented to the commission. Ms. Gooden seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Financial Report: Mr. Smith provided the financial reports for shelter care and the detention center which covered up to February 2024 which is the first eight months. Total assets were \$10.2 million, Mr. Smith noted it was slightly down from the end of January Current assets are \$5.9 million. Mr. Smith stated at the end of February the equity was \$8.1 million with \$2 million of liability, which is related to payroll liability. Total revenue is \$3.8 million. Mr. Smith noted expenditures are running at 72%. The auditors are still completing their review. Mr. Lambert inquired if the training, legal/professional fees had increased this year or were the numbers accurate for this time of year. Ms. McNair stated that typically \$80, 000 is spent on training, however, with the previous budget, in an effort to manage funds, it was cut in half. Due to turnover and increased population, it became apparent the full amount was needed. Ms. McNair noted that the attorney fee was also increased due to the level of work being performed. Mr. Conklin asked if a shortfall is anticipated. Ms. McNair stated she believes there will be a shortfall. A short discussion followed. Mr. Smith reported that Shelter Care had \$1.8 million in total assets at the end of February. Current assets are \$1.2 million. Mr. Smith pointed out that eighty percent of the budgeted revenue has been received.

Executive Director's Report: Ms. McNair asked the deputy director to provide an update to the commission on the work being completed with upgrades and new partnerships. Mr. Rachal acknowledged the guest that joined virtually. Vernon Green introduced himself and noted GCubed would be taking over IT services and support for the detention and shelter care. Mr. Rachal noted how access control and a lot of the doors of the facility needed to be upgraded. Ms. McNair noted the reason the vendors would be providing information is so that the commission would be informed of what is being done, how it impacts the agency and cost. Todd Schubert

provided an overview of TCI and what they are offering the agency, James Lamana shared his presentation and provided what would be included in the quote for services. Javel Green followed and presented his solutions from the company Koniag.

Director of Programming Report: Mr. White reported that currently there are five individual bed placements. Mr. White noted some of the partnership programs coming in to support residents are substance abuse, which is through Alexandria CSU and the MARC agency, Dr. Rosario has been working with residents. A work force development program is being created to train residents in electrical work, welding, and plumbing. The music program had the group Sound Impact, which worked with residents to play instruments, perform poetry giving the resident's families a chance to see them perform. Mr. White stated pickleball continues with the residents, the Arlington police officers have been working with residents.

Care Center Report: Ms. Reiney reported that there are currently have a wait list of four females and two males. The beds are currently full, awaiting one resident to come. The total utilization for the month was 58.3%. Ms. Gooden asked the age of the youngest child. Ms. Reiney noted the youngest resident was twelve years old. There are currently sixteen full-time staff. The employee of the month was Mr. Downy.

NVJDC Principal: Dr. Oliver introduced herself as the new principal. Dr. Oliver reported that testing continues at the school. The students recently celebrated Pi Day. The students recently planted flowers and vegetables, which they will be able to watch and monitor their growth.

Ms. Worthey's Report: Ms. Worthey noted the NATCAP contract had been signed. Mr. Conklin asked when services would begin. Ms. McNair noted they are going through obtaining licenses currently. Ms. McNair pointed out that one hold up may be getting the fire marshal's report. Mr. Lamber offered to assist with the process. .

Neil Title: No report.

CSU (Court Services Unit) Directors Reports:

Alexandria – Mr. Mackey noted the upcoming meetings on May 1 at 2pm for Senior policy on Gangs and on May 15th the Community Gang Task Force will meet at 6pm.

Arlington – Mr. Conklin reported that a full-time mentoring coordinator has been hired.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.