

# HANOVER COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

## *Public Awareness Committee*

**Meeting of June 27, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Hanover County Human Services Large Conference Room  
12300 Washington Highway, Ashland, VA 23005**

### Minutes

#### Call to Order and Welcome

The Public Awareness Committee (“Committee”) achieved a quorum and the Chair convened the meeting at 4:06 PM. Present were Ryan Hudson, Committee Chair, Anne Cross, Gary Perkins, and Linda Wilkinson. Sue Randolph was absent but expected (and did indeed arrive at 4:16 PM). Ellen Bowyer (Senior Assistant County Attorney, Hanover County Attorney’s Office) and Ivy Sager (Executive Director, Hanover County Community Services Board) also were present.

The first order of business was to approve the agenda and the minutes from the May 16, 2022, Committee meeting. The Committee approved the agenda and minutes as presented.

#### Jean C. Harris Award

Mr. Hudson noted that the Jean C. Harris award is the first order of business. Ms. Bowyer explained that the nominations form had been revised to address issues raised during the last award process and comments from the Committee at its last meeting, and also contained changes offered by the County’s Director of Communications intended to make the nominations form more visibly appealing.

The date of the awards ceremony was confirmed tentatively as October 26, 2022. Ms. Sager explained that this date coincides with a meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Perkins questioned the connection to COVID created by the first paragraph of the nominations form, noting that he thought the award was more long-standing and traditional rather than responsive to an emergency. The Committee discussed revisions to the first paragraph to emphasize the ongoing and continuous importance of the Harris Award. Ms. Randolph arrived during this discussion at 4:16 PM. Mr. Perkins then suggested an opening sentence emphasizing the many caring people in Hanover County and the focus of the award on Hanover County.

Ms. Wilkinson questioned whether the nominations form should include additional information on the CSB and Ms. Sager noted that a press release would accompany the nominations form. The Committee discussed what it meant that an organization serves Hanover County; that is, would it be eligible for nomination if it were based in another community but served Hanover County? The Committee then worked to revise the opening paragraph of the nominations form to emphasize the award’s connection to Hanover County. Mr. Perkins recommended that the reference to three awards be deleted, and the Committee concurred.

Additional conforming changes were made to the form, and Ms. Sager agreed to circulate the revised form for final review and comment by the Committee members.

The Committee discussed having the Harris family play a more prominent role in opening the awards ceremony, and the importance of encouraging the children and grandchildren of Mrs. Harris's children to attend as well.

Mrs. Cross noted that food in the past ceremonies was provided by women who had known Mrs. Harris, some of whom served on the CSB. The Committee decided that the ceremony would be held at St. Paul's and that Mrs. Cross should reach out to acquaintances of Mrs. Harris regarding the food.

Mrs. Cross then raised the issue of the new book In Sickness and In Health: The Marriage of Patrick Henry and Sarah Shelton, by Mark Couvillon, which details the mental health difficulties experienced by Sarah Shelton, and its impact on the Henry family. The Committee discussed presenting a copy of the book to the Pamunkey Regional Library, and the value of CSB Board members attending the author's lecture on the book that is scheduled for later this summer at the old Hanover Courthouse.

The Committee then turned to a timeframe for the Harris award:

September 26 – Issue invitations

September 19 – CSB Board meeting

September 15 – Circulate nominations

September 9 – Deadline for nominations

August 26 – Hanover Review will be published

July 25 – Nomination information to Hanover Review

Mr. Perkins asked whether the Committee or full CSB Board could discuss the award in a closed session. Ms. Bowyer initially demurred, then researched State Code and informed the Committee that subdivision A.11 of Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 authorizes closed sessions for "Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards." The Committee determined that it would be useful to have closed sessions scheduled for both its meeting to discuss nominees, and for the full CSB Board meeting thereafter, with the option of cancelling the latter if it were not necessary.

The Committee emphasized that the involvement of the full CSB Board will be critical: the full CSB Board will score all the applications and the Committee will deliberate in closed session regarding those scores and then will make a recommendation to the CSB Board. The CSB Board would have the option of further discussion relating to the same in closed session, and then would vote in open session on the final awardees.

In other Committee work, Ms. Sager agreed to send out the revised nomination form, press release, and a schedule of necessary steps. Ms. Sager also agreed to send out a draft

schedule for the awards ceremony proper for the Committee's review. Mr. Hudson agreed to follow up with Mr. Katz regarding a public service announcement.

### **Committee's Action Plan for 2022**

Ms. Sager asked whether any Committee members would be able to join with her and other CSB staff at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on July 3, 2022. Sue Randolph agreed to join her.

Ms. Sager then discussed the value and use of the TEAMS software in helping structure and further the Committee's action plan, including by developing talking points and messaging for effective communication with the community.

Mr. Perkins noted that CSB Board members formerly had been involved with different community organizations, and would report on those regularly at CSB meetings. Ms. Wilkinson concurred with this idea and offered further suggestions on this. Ms. Randolph noted that she had attended a CSB-connected meeting and was able to offer positive comments to presenting staff from a CSB Board member perspective.

Mr. Perkins observed that the CSB should work through the new Director of Community Engagement to address public concern at tragedies and other significant events. Ms. Wilkinson agreed with Mr. Perkins's point, and noted that there are more veterans living in Virginia than in other states and this could be an important point of concern. Ms. Sager described how the CSB communicates following tragedies and noted the increase in contact from students following the Uvalde mass murder. Ms. Wilkinson asked how many of those students would return for follow-up services and Ms. Sager indicated that the data are shown on the monthly dashboard provided to the CSB Board.

The Committee adjourned at 5:30 PM.