

Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019 3:30 PM

Present: Kevin Karpowicz, Beverly Birkmire, Karen Dioniosi, Olythea Hunley, Bob Jacob, Charlotte Potts, Bill Washington Tracy Williams, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

Absent: Rosalie Kuechler, William Washington

Presentation: Shelly gave the Board the overview and update on the PQI process of KCDSS

Chairperson's Report :

- Approvals of minutes from January 22, 2019. Motion to approve made by Olythea Hunley and second by Charlotte Potts motion carried by unanimous vote. One change was indicated that the correct spell of Commissioner Jacob's name be corrected to Jacob.

➤ **Kent County CARES Foundation**

- Rachel Boyle new CAC coordinator will be attending the March meeting. She is currently working on events for April for Child Abuse Awareness month.

➤ **Director's Report (Shelly Neal-Edwards):**

- **Divisional Performance Report –January** reviewed at meeting. No questioned were raised.
 - Shelly did bring certain items to the boards attention:
 - Child Support numbers are down but should increase with Tax season.
 - Food Supplements are all processed in the required time
 - If a client comes into the agency and applies for TCA (Temporary Cash Assistants) and they have children at home, that Client will be screened for substance abuse before TCA is approved.
 - TDAP Temporary Disability Assistance Program) is available for Disabled adults in this case when this client applies (not having children in their care)
 - Currently there are 9 children in care, 2 are voluntary placement.
 - There are now 3 Resource homes in the County.
- **SNAP Project update due to Federal shutdown** – Shelly explained to the Board that a funding source was located and the agency was able to put together 30 bags of canned and non perishable items to give to out to people in need, Federal employees effected and SNAP recipients.
- **MASSB Annual Conference-** Information was shared with the board. The Annual Conference will be held on October 24 & 25, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Solomons Island.
- **2019 Legislative Update** - Shelly gave a brief update of the Bills put forth that would affect Social Services.
 - **HB 688-Safe Harbor Bill** mandates that a regional navigator be assigned to manage sex trafficking cases under GOCCP. Requiring a law enforcement officer who has reason to believe that a certain child is a victim of sex trafficking to notify a certain regional navigator; declaring the intent of the General Assembly that a minor who is reasonably believed to have engaged in prostitution be treated as a victim of sexual abuse and have access to immediate child-centered and trauma-informed services; providing certain immunity for a minor who engages in certain prostitution-related conduct; etc. DHS is not taking a position. There is opposition from child advocate groups.
 - **HB912/SB894**-Authorizing an individual to notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency if the individual has reason to believe that a verbal threat of imminent severe bodily harm or death to a child has been made by a certain individual and

that the child is at substantial risk of child abuse; designating certain procedures and requirements for a report concerning a certain verbal threat of harm to a child; etc. DHS is not taking a position at this time.

- **HB 1283/SB 732-Child in Need of Assistance**-Guardianship by Local Department Able Accounts is likely to not move forward because there are stipulations in federal statute that prevents a local DSS from being guardian of property
- **HB 1213**-Reducing the time frame during which a person may revoke consent to a certain guardianship of a child; reducing the time frame during which a person may revoke consent to a certain guardianship of a child or adoption of a child; increasing from 10 to 14 years old the age at which a minor's consent is required for an adoption; increasing from 10 to 14 years old the age at which a minor may revoke consent to an adoption under certain circumstances; etc. DHS supporting this bill.

- **Additional Topics** - No additional topics were addressed.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Beverly Birkmire at 4:35pm, seconded by Karen Dioniosi. Motion Carried by unanimous vote.
- The next meeting will be held March 18, 2019 at 3:30pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle, Recording Secretary