

**Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2017 3:30 PM**

Present: David Kelley, Kevin Karpowicz, Rosalie Kuechler, Shelley Heller, Olythea Hunley, Charlotte Potts, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

Absent: Darlene Spurrier, Bill Washington

Presentation: Child Support Division Questions and Answers - Lindsay Blume and Ruth Kerr

▪ **Chairperson's Report (Dave Kelley):**

- Approval of minutes from February 21, 2017 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Kevin Karpowicz second by Olythea Hunley, motion carried by unanimous vote.
- No report from Chairperson.

▪ **Kent County CARES Foundation (Lee Hunley)**

- Fundraiser Dinner at JR's planned for March 29, 2017 will not move forward. Committee was unable to connect with JR to discuss plans and menu. The fundraising committee felt there would not be enough time to get flyer out for this event therefore not making it profitable.
- Lori Wheeler event has been scheduled for May 18, 2017 it will be held at the American Legion in Chestertown. Flyers will be posted on Facebook in April and distributed.
- Committee would like to hold another Vendors Day in November. To be determined.
- Next Fundraising meeting will be April 5, 2017 @ 10am in Main Conference room at 350 High Street.

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

- **COA Accreditation** – Work is underway and being prepared. Site Visit is tentatively scheduled for November 12-14 (Sunday through Tuesday). Preliminary Self Study due beginning of August 2017.
- **United Way Grant** will be submitted on behalf of the Kent County CARES Foundation. This year we are asking for \$3,000. This money is used for supplies and training for the CAC. Application is due April 8, 2017 and will need to be signed by Dave Kelley being Chair of the Advisory Board.
- **Leadership Development Initiative** – Shelly explained that she was chosen to fill one of the thirty spots for this training. It is a rigorous nine-month program designed to enhance our abilities as a leader within the Department and to positively impact the lives of our most vulnerable Marylanders. The training is held on the 3rd Friday of each month for the next nine months at various locations near Baltimore. This initiative will give leaders the tools related to various aspects of leadership.
- **Meeting with Senator Hershey** was March 9, 2017. He was unable to attend due to session. The Directors of Cecil Co., Queen Anne's Co., Caroline Co and Kent Co., met with Senator Hershey's main staff person to discuss what is going on the counties he represents. She was informed of the opioid and homelessness concerns in these counties. She stated that she would inform Senator Hershey of the information provided.

- Legislative Hearing February 23, 2017 the following Bill Maryland HB697 – Child Abuse and Neglect Statewide Reporting 2-1-1 Maryland was taken out. Reworking on process to have a central number but calls would be redirected to each county. DHR name change is going through it will be Department of Human Services and Child Support Enforcement will be Child Support Administration.
- **DHR News** – New Secretary, Lourdes Padilla began on February 8, 2017. Greg James will resume his role as Deputy Secretary for Programs, Craig Eichler will be Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary for Strategy and Administration. Ann Flagg will be the Acting Deputy Director of Programs. Nicolette Smith-Bligen is the Acting Family Investment Administration Executive. Acting Director of Dorchester to be announced shortly. It will be an Assistant Director from Wicomico County.
- **New Board Member** – Shelly presented the resume of Karen Dionisio to the board for consideration to be appointed to the board. Motion to nominate Karen Dionisio to the County Commissioners for board membership by Shelly Heller; seconded by Rosalie; motion carried by unanimous vote.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Karpowicz at 4:18 pm, seconded by Charlotte Potts. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18 2017 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary