

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

**Present:** Kevin Karpowicz, Bill Washington, Rosalie Kuechler, Beverly Bickmire, Barbara Hanson, Olythea Hunley, Charlotte Potts, Lisa Falls for Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

**Absent:** Karen Dioniosi, Shelly Heller, Shelly Neal-Edwards

**Presentation: Patty Dahle - PQI presentation**

- **Chairperson's Report (Kevin Karpowicz):**
  - Approval of minutes from October 16, 2017 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Bill Washington, second by Beverly Bickmire, motion carried by unanimous vote.
  - MASSB Conference – Chair spoke about what was presented at MASSB Conference. Current Opioid Crisis “Not my Child”. Round table discussions along with a brief movie was shown which was great. Installation of “Warmline” is to help individuals living with mental health and/or substance use needs. Provides support and resources for people who are having a difficult time, might be isolating, might be entering in or out of a hospital, or if you just need to talk to somebody it is a toll free number that is peer run and peer operated. Currently it is a Police officer along with a Peer counselor that can or may go to individuals home. Kent County has a Peer counselor from the Health Department. Looking to partner with case worker and work together to help.
    - Beverly Birkmeyer mentioned that Tim Dove from Health Department along with 2 peer counselors will be presenting on this topic on November 21, 2017 at noon to the Rotary Club at the Fish Whistle. All are welcome.
  - Dr. Karpowicz spoke to the Board about separation of Advisory Board and Fundraising committee. The question was asked if they felt separation was needed. How should the board go about encouraging community members to join? He emphasized that fundraising efforts have been falling on Agency Staff and that cannot happen. It is a Board function and he recognizes that some board members are participating regularly.
  - A Letter has been drafted and ready for mailing to local businesses and community members in hopes of donation and make them aware of the CARES Foundation and what it supports.
  - Dr. Karpowicz brought up a proposal of a way to possibly fix transportation needs in the county by using Lyft service in which a pilot program could be established. Could also possibly work with the American Job Center to get a person interested in a start up. CARES Foundation could possibly pay out of funds for clients to get to places they need to be. More research needs to be done. This was just an idea in hopes to solve a large problem in the community.
- **Kent County CARES Foundation**
  - Results of Vendor Fair on November 3 were discussed and monies made were gone over. Fundraising Committee will meet in the New Year to go over what can be done to better participation for next Fair. A total of \$432.00 was earned from percentage of sales and 50/50.

- **Director's Report (Lisa Falls for Shelly Neal-Edwards):**
  - **Secretary's Visit** – Secretary Padilla visit to Agency on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> was a success and she was very impressed by the community partnership. Dr. Karpowicz was able to attend the luncheon. After the lunch she was able to tour the American job center.
  - **Divisional Performance Report –October** reviewed at the at board meeting. No questions asked.
  - **State Computer System** - Lisa spoke about the upgrades to the state computer system that are currently underway.
  - **Dinner and Discussion** –Board of Director's of the Eastern Shores DSS's hosting a Dinner and Discussion on November 9, 2017 at the Dorchester County Department of Social Services, Cambridge Maryland t. Dr. Karpowicz , Lisa Falls and Shelly Neal-Edwards attended. A lot of information was shared in regards to the Opioid crisis, Substance Exposed Newborns as well as Out of State Placement. Jurisdictions shared what programs and services that are being used to improve outcomes regarding this issue.
  - **COA Accreditation Site Visit** – Accreditation site visit took place on November 13 – November 15. 3 reviewers were onsite for 2 ½ days to review self study evidence prepared by staff. Two of the reviewers were lawyers and the other was a college professor. They were extremely impressed with the programs and were complimentary of the organization of documents. The statement was that they have been doing this for years and Kent County DSS had the most organized information along with being thorough. It went really well thanks to the effort of multiple agency staff members. The agency will be notified of any out of compliance ratings if any of the fundamental practice standards.
  - **Festival of Trees** – The Board has the opportunity to participate in the Festival of Trees. Festival of Trees is a display of Christmas Trees for the public to view. The event is organized by the Soroptimist. Organizations and families display trees that enable them to have free public attention. Karen Dioniosi will be donating the tree for use. If Board is interested, ornament will need to be purchase. The Agency staff has offered to put it together. A planning meeting will be held November 29 @ 11:00am, main office.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Beverly Birkmire at 5:15pm, seconded by Bill Washington. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary