

**Kent County Department of Social Services  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2018 3:30 PM**

**Present:** Bill Washington, Beverly Birkmire, Karen Dioniosi, Barbara Hansen, Shelly Heller, Olythea Hunley, Charlotte Potts, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

**Absent:** Kevin Karpowicz, Rosalie Kuechler, Tracy Williams

- **Chairperson's Report :** Bill Washington, Vice Chair conducted meeting in the absence of board Chair.
  - Approval of minutes from June 18, 2018 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Beverly Birkmire, second by Charlotte Potts, motion carried by unanimous vote.
- **Kent County CARES Foundation**
  - Reviewed the MASSB Financial Statement showing recent deposits from Fundraiser.
  - August First Friday will not be held due to lack of prize donations.
  - Shelly told the board about the resignation of the CAC Coordinator. This position is not state funded. This is a grant funded position and it is difficult to maintain staff however the agency will be recruiting for a replacement. There was discussion on how to locate grant funds and other funding sources.
- **Director's Report (Shelly Neal-Edwards):**
  - **Divisional Performance Report –June** reviewed at meeting. One question was asked by Karen Dioniosi as to what is Community Medical Assistance. Shelly explained the state funded medical insurance program.
  - Strategic Plan Session – Shelly passed around a draft of the new strategic plan and explained about the process and the facilitation of. In brief the three Results the agency will strive for over the next three years. The final Strategic Plan will be rolled out to staff September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the main conference room and board members are welcome to attend.
  - **FY 2018 Close out** – The close out of the FY2018 budget went well and during the month of May and June the spend down went accurately. There will be a close audit happening soon.
  - **Common Customer** – Shelly explained that Common Customer Intake (CCI) is strategic customer service imperative. Goal is crisis prevention; intervene early before it becomes a crisis situation, reducing the time and resources spent later for same customer, consistency in customer service across the state. We are all one agency. There is a list of 7 questions to help assess client and provide information on services that maybe available to them. Shelly gave the example of a customer going to child support and needed help with their benefit card. Child Support Worker called a Family Investment worker who then went and assisted the women with using her card. We are all one agency
  - **MD Think** – The state of Maryland is building a new platform to improve its use of data when providing social services.\$200 million is being invested into **MD THINK**, or **Maryland's Total Human-services Information Network**. It's a cloud-based data repository that will make it easier to share information across departments. DHS is the first to go live. Long Term Care will roll out on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff have been trained. Other programs will roll out in time
  - **Kent County Fair** – Shelly let the Board know that Social Services will have an informational table displaying the programs that the agency has to off at the fair with brochures, give aways and games for children to play. Employees from all divisions have volunteered to man the table.
  - **Other:** Beverly Birkmire shared about Kent Goes Purple with the Board. Kent Goes Purple is a substance abuse awareness and prevention initiative that engages our community and our youth to stand up against substance abuse. Kent Goes Purple encourages the community to 'Go Purple' as a sign of solidarity against substance abuse in Kent County. The project includes educational messages,

a 5K Color Run and a purple high school football game. Kent Goes Purple is an initiative of the Kent County Sheriff's Office and Chestertown Rotary Club. The project is based upon THP Project Purple, an initiative of The Herren Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation established by former NBA basketball player, Chris Herren, that assists individuals and families struggling with addiction. More information is available on our website at [www.kentgoespurple.org](http://www.kentgoespurple.org). For the month of September Turn Kent County purple, please show your support by wearing purple or displaying purple lights at your home or business.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Beverly Birkmire at 4:25pm, seconded by Olythea Hunley. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
  
- The next meeting will be held September 17, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary