

**Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018 3:30 PM**

Present: Kevin Karpowicz, Beverly Birkmire, , Barbara Hansen, Shelly Heller, Olythea Hunley, Charlotte Potts, Tracy Williams, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

Absent: Bill Washington, Karen Dioniosi, Rosalie Kuechler

▪ **Chairperson's Report :**

- Approval of minutes from July 16, 2018 board meeting: Motion to approve made by, Shelly Heller second by Beverly Birkmire, motion carried by unanimous vote.

▪ **Kent County CARES Foundation**

- Request for **Withdrawal** of \$200.00 was presented to the Board for approval.
 - The Adult Guardianship Program is requesting the funds for one of our guardians who is on a very limited fixed income. He resides in a nursing home. These funds will be dispersed to his account in order to provide for 6 haircuts as wells as to purchase new socks, underwear and undershirts.
 - Motion to approve made by Beverly Birkmire, second by Charlotte Potts, motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

- **Divisional Performance Report –July and August** reviewed at meeting. No questioned were raised.
- **Strategic Plan Session** – Shelly invited the Board to attend the agency's New Strategic Roll out on Tuesday Sept 18, 2018 in the Main conference room located at 350 High Street, Chestertown. Rob Levit the consultant who facilitated the Strategic Planning with roll it out to the agency.
- **Recruitment of CAC Coordinator**– Recruitment is currently being done for a new Coordinator. Margret Allen has taken a full time merit position in another county. This position is paid with fund money and it only allows for 20hours a week. This is a position that the agency hopes to someday be a merit position as it is needed. Services had a significant increase in cases this summer.
- **PA2E**– Shelly explained about that the Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E) Strategy. The program, inspired by Harvard Business School research, was designed to provide business development training, tools, and techniques to individuals that are currently receiving public assistance who also have dreams of owning a business while driving economic development. The strategy has demonstrated its ability to enhance and expand Maryland's current workforce development programs by providing resources and training to individuals receiving assistance with ultimate goal of independently supporting themselves and their families. Kent County had one gentleman who completed the program Mr. Kennard Clark who owns and operates his own lawn-equipment repair business. Everyone is so proud of him. This program will begin again and we have two Kent County residents who have signed up.
- **START Model** – START (sobriety treatment and recovery team). Training was held in Talbot County. What START is : Changes Child Protective Services (CPS) practice and improves family outcomes. Serves Families with parental substance use disorders and child

maltreatment. Helps parents achieve recovery and keeps children in home with family when safe and possible. Partners with substance use disorder (SUD) treatment providers to improve quick access to quality treatment. The Goals are: preventing foster care entry, child safety and well being, parental recovery, and permanency for children, family stability and self sufficiency, improved system capacity for addressing parental substance use and child maltreatment. A full time recovery specialist has been hired and two of the agency's staff are family mentors.

- **Kent Goes Purple** – 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. 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. The agency went all out and lit up purple for the month. Staff even raised money by wearing jeans and something purple on Thursdays. They raised \$80.00 to donate. The court house will light up purple on Friday night and so far 100 business are participating.
 - **Trunk or Treat** - The Agency once again will hold Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. It was a great success last year and the excitement is building for this year. If any board member would like to participate by decorating a trunk and hand out candy are more than welcome to join us for this fun filled afternoon. The agency could use donations of candy for this event so if you would like to, please bring it to next months meeting on October 15, 2018
- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Beverly Birkmire at 4:30pm, seconded by Barbara Hansen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- The next meeting will be held October 15, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary