

**Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2018 3:30 PM**

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

Absent: Karen Dioniosi, Barabara Hansen, Rosalie Kuechler

➤ **Chairperson's Report :**

- Approval of minutes from September 18, 2018 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Bill Washington second by Shelly Heller, motion carried by unanimous vote.
- It was asked by Kevin Karpowicz, Chair, if there were any other programs that the Board could support with money in the Kent County CARES account.
 - Shelly Neal- Edwards informed the Board of following issues / programs where the Board could possibly help with funds.
 - Attorney fees for a divorce case that had investigations with findings and the parents are going to appeal. Need new attorney for CAC. DHS will need to approve first.
 - START Model could be supported. START (sobriety treatment and recovery team). 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.
 - Adult Services is another area that could use funding in various ways. The Board agreed to these possibilities.

➤ **Kent County CARES Foundation**

- Shelly informed the Board that a great candidate has been found for the CAC coordinator position which has strong fundraising skills.
- No fundraising event are on the schedule, waiting for new CAC coordinator, which is a grant funded positioning and if possible maybe able to make it a state merit employee position by converting and existing PIN.
- November Vendor Fair will not happen this year as participation from vendors would be lower than years in the past.

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

- **Divisional Performance Report -September** reviewed at meeting. No questioned were raised.
 - **Foster Home** - New home has been approved therefore there are now 2 in Kent County
- **Recruitment of CAC Coordinator**- Recruitment is currently being done for a new Coordinator. A candidate for the position has been identified and will advise if the

candidate accepts position and start date. This position is paid with grant funds 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.

- **Kent Goes Purple** – Kent Goes Purple is a substance abuse awareness and prevention initiative that engaged our community and our youth to stand up against substance abuse. Kent Goes Purple encourages the community to 'Go Purple' in September as a sign of solidarity against substance abuse in Kent County. It was a great success and will continue to keep awareness front and center. The “Kent Goes Purple” high school football game had a great turn out and people are now talking. “Kent Goes Purple” was 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.
 - **Trunk or Treat** - The Agency will have its 2nd Annual “Trunk or Treat” in the parking lot. It was a great success last year and the excitement is building for this year. This is an opportunity for the community to partner with the agency, for the community to see what programs are available and to meet the staff. 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 the main office and leave with front desk
- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Washington at 4:30pm, seconded by Beverly Birkmire. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- The next meeting will be held November 19, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary