

Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2023

Present: Beverly Birkmire, Jen Cole, Tom Herz, guest Hope Braveheart and Shelly Neal-Edwards
Absent: Caitlan Gartlan, Vienna Walker, Portia Tuner, Catherine Boyer - Sterling and Commissioner Ronnie Fithian

Chairperson's Report:

- May 15, 2023 deferred to July's meeting due to low board member attendance.
- **Recruitment** - Lynwood Lively and Hope Braveheart will be submitting an application for Board Membership. .
- **Local Bd For FEMA Funding** - Caitlan has agreed to serve on the FEMA Funding board.
- **Planning and Goal development** -
 - Activity Schedule -
 - Sheriff Hickman will attend the July meeting to discuss Kent Goes Purple Events
 - Julia King will attend the September meeting to discuss the Farmers Market partnership with the SNAP program
 - Vicky Taylor will attend May 2024 to discuss the RISE program.
 - Add to the September/October agendas - Fundraising.
- **Governors support** - Tom Herz meet with the Governor on June 2nd along with Madisyn Bryce, Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison, representative for the Eastern Shore. Tom would like to have her attend a Board meeting to combine our needs with Governor Moore's needs for non profits. i.e. 12 month Homeless Shelter.

Director's Report:

- **The Divisional Performance Report** – Child Support data is compiled manually due to system error. FIA's numbers have reduced due to income increase which closes cases. Services have 1 new foster child. Two foster care homes were closed due to adoptions or maxed out. ARPA Rental relief ended in October. Local provider Tamy Duff from MRDT is assisting with funding to prevent evictions along with Mid Shore Behavioral Health.
- **Staffing Update** - Alison Farmer came on board in Services to begin collecting data Sean Rogers and McKaylah Pace joined FIA as OHEP caseworkers.
- **Agency Outreach**- DSS will have an outreach table at the Kent County Fair July 20 - 2nd. Board members are welcome to stop by and hang out with staff to promote the CARES Foundation. Calvert Heights May 20th.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 17th at 3:30pm. The committee will be meeting in person in the Child Support Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Cole, Executive Assistant