

Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023

Present: Beverly Birkmire, Hope Clark, Portia Turner, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Catherine Boyer-Sterling, Tom Herz, Dr. Vienna Walker, Sheriff Hickman and Jen Cole
Absent: Caitlan Gartland and Ron Fithian

Kent Goes Purple - Sheriff Hickman

The Kent County Sheriff's Department partners with the Chestertown Rotary Club and Kent County Health Department to promote substance abuse awareness during the month of September. Local businesses change their lights to purple, 5K color run at Wilmar Park, on September 10th. Kent County Prevention Services are securing speakers for the Middle and High Schools.

CAC Funding Request - Margaret Allen

Services would like to request \$2100 for child care services while 2 children have been placed with a family member. Request approved.

Chairperson's Report:

- Approval of minutes from June 20, 2023.
- Recruitments - Tom may have an individual interested in filling the 3rd board member position.
- Dr. Walker will remain on the Board.

Director's Report:

- **The Divisional Performance Report** – Increase in energy assistance. Nothing significant in Child Support. Services show a decline in investigations possible due to school being on Summer break.
- **MD Think CSMS - Child Support Management System** - Seems to be working better as there has been less reports of suspended drivers licenses.
- **Outreach Events**- Kent County 4H Fair - July 19th - 22nd. Staff will be set up under the large tent. Stop in and talk with them if you are visiting the fair.
- **Staffing Update** - The Management Associate position has been filled. The candidate will be starting Sept 6th. .
- **FY25 Budget** - Projected budget was submitted on Friday for the FY25. The agency did ask for additional funds for overtime for investigations and training.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Cole, Executive Assistant