

Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2020

Present: Kevin Karpowicz, Beverly Birkmire, Olythea Hunley, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Tracey Williams, Pastor Caitlan Gartland, Charlotte Pots, William Washington, David May and Jen Cole

Absent: Bob Jacobs

Chairperson's Report:

- Approval of minutes from June 15, 2020. Motion to approve was made by unanimous vote.

- **Kent County CARES Foundation**
 - Dr. Karpowicz submitted the approved press release to the Chestertown Spy. He also submitted an amended version that acknowledged the support of the United Way foundation.
 - Website Development - Dr. Karpowicz states his daughter has been extremely busy at her full-time job but still plans to help with the development of the website.
 - United Way of Kent County Award - Shelly reports United Way awarded us with \$4,000 this year. It is not as much as we asked for, however, it is more than last year's award. Dr. Karpowicz would like to submit a press release announcing the award.
 - Dr. Karpowicz suggested the CARES Foundation look into alternatives for helping families with school age kids who have limited internet access when school is back in session. Shelly states the LMB is also looking at possibilities for solutions. Pastor Caitlan suggested recruiting local churches with WIFI to possibly open their buildings to school age children while their parents work so they are not home alone. Tracey suggested contacting Gina Jachimowicz from Kent County Public Schools and possibly the Methodist Church in Galena who was offering tutoring to determine needs and coordinate.

- **Director's Report:**
 - **Divisional Performance Report –June** was reviewed by attending members. Child Support collections and arrears continue to increase due to tax returns and stimulus payments. FIA information has also increased due to statewide processing. The departments have seen an increase in applications for services. Applicants are now required to provide income eligibility. Child Welfare Services has decreased to 5 children in placement, 1 child turned 18 and asked to be released from the program. 1 child is currently in the process of adoption.

 - **Updates for KCDSS & State of Maryland** – The agency will be upgrading their phone system to e-voice once Voice of Internet is installed. This will allow customers to utilize only one phone number to reach any service they may need. The current system does not allow that and has to redirect customers with a separate phone number to call. The agency is still following the CDC and DHS guidelines with limited staff in the building daily. There may be budget cuts in the near future which could possibly result in the agency condensing into one building and sharing office space.

 - **Boy Scout Troop #175 Project** – Thanks to Pastor Caitlan Gartland, Tonito Miranda from Boy Scout Troop #175 donated facial coverings for KCDSS customers and staff to use.

 - **Summer (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) SNAP - KCDSS** submitted an application to DHS and the Kent County Government to provide additional help to Rock Hall and Millington families during the months of June, July, August and December. The application was approved on June 2nd. Shelly will present the MOA to the Commissioners on Tuesday, July 21st.

 - **Other**

- Motion to Adjourn: With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn at 4:20 pm. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- The next meeting will be held Monday, September 21, 2020 at 3:30pm via Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Cole
Executive Assistant