

**Kent County Department of Social Services  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2017 3:30 PM**

**Present:** David Kelley, Karen Dionisio, Shelley Heller, Olythea Hunley, Kevin Karpowicz, Charlotte Potts, Bill Washington, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

**Absent:** Rosalie Kuechler

**Presentation:**

▪ **Chairperson's Report (David Kelley):**

- Approval of minutes from May 15, 2017 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Bill Washington, second by Kevin Karpowicz, motion carried by unanimous vote.
- Dave announced that he will not be serving a second term on the board and today's meeting will be his last.
  - Presentation of Slate of Officers: Dave put forward the following slate of officers to take effect on July 1, 2017
    - Kevin Karpowicz – Chair
    - Bill Washington – Vice Chair
    - Rosalie Kuechler – Treasurer

No additional nominations were offered, so were declared closed. Slate was approved by unanimous vote.

▪ **Kent County CARES Foundation (Lee Hunley)**

- Lori Wheeler event May 18, 2017 was held at the American Legion in Chestertown.
  - 34 people were in attendance.
  - KC CARES Foundation raised \$774.00 to be deposited into account. This amount includes the 50/50 which one half was donated back to Foundation.
  - The amount raised was one half of the money raised in the year prior.
  - Committee has voted on holding this event every other year. Next one would be in 2019.
- Vendor Fair – Friday, November 3, 2017
  - Committee is working on organizing this event. More information to be given in September after committee meets in August.

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

- **COA Accreditation** –Less than a month to go. Have been speaking with contact at COA for advice and clarification.
- **Families Blossom** – Partnering with the Family Support Center on this initiative. The Family Support Center will be providing the “Nurturing Parenting Program” to families in Kent County. This is an evidence-based curriculum that is a prevention model for child maltreatment. A family style meal will be given. Child care will be provided. Incentives to complete the program will be offered. We plan to begin the first session in September. We would like to have 3 sessions for the year. Flyers will be distributed and advertising in local papers will be done.

- **Out of State Placement** – Foster Care Youths. The state will no longer be sending youths out of state. DHR will be bringing it all back to Maryland. In the past some youths with special needs were sent out of state to different homes / centers that were more capable to handle certain situations. These centers once existed in Maryland but have been closed and currently there are no facilities in the state to handle severely harmed children.
- **Thrive @ 25** – Assistance to foster care youth who will be entering into adult hood. This is the 5 County initiatives (Kent, QA, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester). The foster care workers will work with the youth to develop life skills so that they will be able to live independently in the future. Studies show that many foster care youth are homeless. This is a prevention model. There is a “Thrive Home” as well that allows 4 youth to reside in the home and will aid in giving these individuals skills in order for them to become independent as well.
- **Vehicles for Change** – Expanded Program (TAP) – DHR has partnered with Vehicles for Change to implement a Transportation Assistance Program (TAP), which will provide vehicles statewide to help current and former Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients maintain employment. This program is for purchasing a vehicle for \$800.00. Applications are available at the Social Service office. The Qualification for receiving a VFC CAR through TAP is the following,

- You must be eligible to receive TCA
- You must have a job that is accessible to public transportation
- You must have non-traditional work hours
- You must face excessive travel time with public transportation
- You must have a valid driver’s license
- You must be capable of providing proof of employment
- You must be working a minimum of 30hours per week

The program does offer a payment plan of \$67.00 for 12 months. Funds for insurance can be provided by the local department if recipients qualify.

- **KC CARES Withdrawal** – An updated request in the amount of \$1,868.60 was put in front of the Board. This amount is being requested to pay for Advanced Forensic Interviewing Training in Philadelphia, PA. The original request was sent to Board members for approval via email on May 19. The updated request is for \$79.00 more than originally requested due to room tax and extra meal that fiscal was able to calculate a more accurate figure. Motion to approve made by Shelly Heller, second by Bill Washington, motion carried by unanimous vote.
- **United Way Grant** was submitted on behalf of the Kent County CARES Foundation. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$3,000.00 in which it was requested.
- **Division Performance Reports – May** – were reviewed and approved
  - Bill Washington questioned the increase in Child Support collections for the month and if was due to some sort of program. Shelly will speak with the Assistant Director to get an explanation and share with the Board.
- Shelly thanked Dave Kelly for his years of service on the board and wished him well.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Washington at 4:25pm, seconded by Lee Hunley. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- The next meeting will be held Monday, July 17, 2017 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary