

**Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018 3:30 PM**

Present: Kevin Karpowicz, Bill Washington, Karen Dioniosi, Rosalie Kuechler, Beverly Bickmire, Charlotte Potts, Tracy Williams, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)
Absent: Barbara Hanson, Olythea Hunley Shelly Heller

Presentation: Shelly Neal -Edwards – Strategic Plan update

- **Chairperson's Report (Kevin Karpowicz):**
 - Approval of minutes from November 20, 2017 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Bill Washington, second by Tracy Williams, motion carried by unanimous vote.
 - After reading of the MASSB handbook, Dr. Karpowicz found a clause about Board Meeting Attendance. He stated if he sees any concern with attendance of meetings by any board member, he will speak with member and see if they are still interested in fulfilling their term or resigning as per suggestion in MASSB handbook states.
 - Approximately 100 letters were sent to local community asking for donations to the Kent County CARES foundation. \$450.00 was received.
 - Dr. Karpowicz spoke of getting a local listing together for the Church's in the county.
 - It was stated that the MLK service was highly attended and this is something the Board should look at and have pamphlets available during these types of services.
 - Dr. Karpowicz asked what is needed for SEN (Substance Exposed Newborns) and how the CARES fund can help. Something that can be purchased to have on hand. Shelly mentioned diapers, formula and other items. Dr. Karpowicz mentioned about possibly putting together welcome home packs with Quilts for the Guild. Shelly will speak with the Services division to get information and bring it back to board.
 - It was mentioned to contact the Interact Club at the high school. The club maybe able to organize a drive for items.
 - **Interact** is a Rotary-sponsored service **club** for young people. It gives young people, mainly **high school** students, an opportunity to participate in fun and meaningful service projects. ... **Interact Club** is self-supporting and self-governing, thus encouraging the development of leadership skills.
- **Kent County CARES Foundation**
 - Spoke about adding a meeting to come up with some new idea for the coming spring and summer.
 - CARES Foundation balance sheet should be available and will be emailed and sent out with February meeting documents.
 - Shelly explained about grants and funding that the CAC has applied for and received and how the Coordinator position is paid through those monies.

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

- **Divisional Performance Report –November & December** reviewed at meeting. Following question was asked:
 - How long is the wait list? More explanation requested on Service to Adults.
- **COA Outcome-** Shelly told the board the exciting news that Kent County Department of Social Services has been reaccredited. In addition, Kent County Department of Social Services was expedited through the Pre-Commission Review Report (PCR) process as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards.
 - Shelly did state that one small issue the auditor brought up was that Risk assessments and actions should be reported to the Board throughout the year. Process summary reports that are done quarterly will be sent out to the board.
- **MASSB 2018 legislative Update (Beverly Birkmire)** –There was a detailed list of Bills that will affect DSS if passed. At the conference a thorough explanation of how a bill comes to life was given.

Below is a list of bills at a glance:

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT BILLS

SB132/HB 500 Crimes - Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report

HB600/SB131 Child Abuse and Neglect - Training

HB838/SB584 Child Protection –Reporting Threat of Harm

HB81 Family Law - Child Abuse and Neglect - Mental Injury

SB480/HB 454 Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Identifying Information and Investigations

HB524/SB 291 Family Law - Protecting the Resources of Children in State Custody

SB91 Juvenile Law - Disclosure of Court Records

FOSTER CARE BILLS

SB85 Tuition Waivers - Foster Care Recipients - Eligibility

HB49 General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Foster Care Month

HB52 General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Foster Youth Legislative Shadow Days

HB431/SB 308 Foster Care Recipients and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth – Employment Program (Fostering Employment Act of 2018)

FOOD STAMP BILL

SB513 Food Stamp Program - Time Limit Waiver - Prohibition

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES BILLS

SB97 Public Utilities - Transportation Network Services - Disclosure of Records

HB 804 Child Support Administration - Suspension of Driver's License or Privilege to Drive for Arrears - Exemption

SB 79 Child Support - Employment Program Participation - Reinstatement of Driver's License and Expungement of Suspension

HB386 Child Support – Potential Income – Definition

- Shelly spoke about Bill –Maryland HB697 – Child Abuse and Neglect Statewide Reporting 2-1-1 Maryland. The Bill would expand the duties of 2-1-1 Maryland to include servicing as a statewide hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect. This Bill has been reentered into legislation.
- Shelly will be presenting to the Rotary Club at the next meeting regarding Services and the CARES Foundation.
- Other
 - Tracy Williams spoke about the **Kent County Mobile model bedroom** to educate the public on opioid abuse warning signs. This is being presented by the KC Sheriff's office. There was a low turnout for these events in the community and it has been said the reason for this was fear community member would be stereotyped and others would question why they were there, assuming they had crisis going on in their lives.

- **KC CARES Withdrawal** – A request in the amount of \$2796.06 was put in front of the Board. This amount is being requested to be put towards the upgrade of our iRecord Universe IP Turnkey Recording system. Motion to approve made by Bill Washington, second by Beverly Brickmire, motion carried by unanimous vote.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Beverly Birkmire at 5:00pm, seconded by Bill Washington. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary