

**Kent County Department of Social Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2018 3:30 PM**

Present: Kevin Karpowicz, Beverly Birkmire, Barbara Hanson, Shelly Heller, Olythea Hunley
Charlotte Potts, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

Absent: Karen Dioniosi, Rosalie Kuechler, Bill Washington, Tracy Williams

Presentation: Dawn Young – Resource Home Recruitment

▪ **Chairperson’s Report (Kevin Karpowicz):**

- Approval of minutes from February 20, 2018 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Beverly Birkmire, second by Charlotte Potts, motion carried by unanimous vote.
- Focusing on substance abused newborns. Will be contacting Dr. Spencer to get a number of how many in the county and work together to put bags together for when the child is going home and what could be included in them.
- **The current SEN Law is the following:** On October 1, 2013 a new law pertaining to reporting of substance exposed newborns went into effect in Maryland. DHR developed and proposed this legislation to reflect requirements in the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. (CAPTA). CAPTA requires health care practitioners involved in the delivery or care of substance exposed newborns to notify the local social services when there is a substance exposed newborn. The healthcare practitioner will make an oral report and will follow up with a written report within 48 hrs. A report of the birth of the SEN will not be considered a referral for investigation for child abuse or neglect and does not create a presumption that a child has been or will be abused or neglected nor will it require a referral for prosecution. Instead the report will trigger an assessment of the safety of and risk to the newborn and as needed the development of a plan of safe care and services for the newborn and family. House Bill 1744 was introduced which would change the reporting of Child Abuse and neglect – Substance Exposed Newborns. See attached

▪ **Kent County CARES Foundation**

- A donation was received from the Worton United Methodist church in the amount of \$359.00 that was collected from those that attended the community wide Lenten worship service.
- A Fundraising meeting has been scheduled for April 26,2018 @ 9:00 in the Main Conference room, 350 High Street, Chestertown, MD

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

- **Divisional Performance Report –February** reviewed at meeting. No questions.
- **Voluntary Placement** – Shelly explained that Kent County had 2 children in Voluntary Placement. What is voluntary placement: A Child can enter placement through a Voluntary Placement Agreement under which a parent voluntarily places a child in the care of the State. A child may be placed in a family home (such as foster or kinship care), a community-based residential facility (such as an independent living program), a non-community-based residential facility (such as a detention center or drug treatment program), or hospital. The Local Coordinating Team, facilitated by the LMB, is comprised of the agencies that are working with youth. The team attempted to assist the families in order to prevent placements however, both are high needs and the

county does not have a Resource home that can accommodate so they will be sent out of county. DHS pays for their care and child support is paid by the parents.

- **In the Works:** FY019 Budget and FY020 are being worked on for submission.
 - MD THINK which is Maryland's new computer system is moving along. Certain staff members have been chosen to be subject matter experts to help with the development of certain programs. Tablets will be utilized once Child and Adult Services go live September 2019

- Other
 - **KC CARES Withdrawal** – a request in the amount of \$1016.00 was put in front of the Board. The funds are being requested to pay for 2 registrations and accommodations for a 2 Day Trauma Conference, "The Body Keeps the Score" in Columbia, Maryland, May 17-18. Motion to approve made by Shelly Heller, second by Kevin Karpowicz, motion carried by unanimous vote.
 - The Board was very interested in this conference and learning more. The Board has requested that the attendees of the conference come in to the May board meeting after conference and share what they learned.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** With no additional business at hand, a motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Hansen at 4:15pm, seconded by Beverly Birkmire. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- The next meeting will be held April 16, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary