

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

Present: Beverly Birkmire, Karen Dioniosi, Olythea Hunley, Rosalie Kuechler, Charlotte Potts, Bill Washington, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

Absent: Kevin Karpowicz, Barbara Hanson, Shelly Heller, Tracy Williams

Presentation: No presentation

- **Chairperson's Report** (Bill Washington conducted meeting in Chairs absence):
 - Approval of minutes from March 19, 2018 board meeting: Motion to approve made by Beverly Birkmire, second by Charlotte Potts, motion carried by unanimous vote.
 - No report this month.

- **Kent County CARES Foundation**
 - A Fundraising meeting has been scheduled for April 26, 2018 @ 9:00 in the Main Conference room, 350 High Street, Chestertown, MD
 - It was asked if there were any ideas for the next fundraiser. At this time there was no input.

- **Director's Report (Shelly Neal-Edwards):**
 - **Divisional Performance Report –March** reviewed at meeting. No questions.

 - **Legislative Session** – Shelly spoke to the board about attending the Kent Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, April 12, 2018. Senator Hershey was present along with Delegates and County Commissioners. Bill 1744 – Regarding the reporting of Substance Exposed Newborns was accepted and will go into effect on October 1, 2018 is the only one that will impact Social Services at this time. Other bills and issues were mentioned such as Bay Bridge to Kent County.

 - **United Way Grant** - the grant was submitted on behalf of the Kent County CARES Foundation. This year we asked for \$3,000. This money is used for supplies and training for the CAC. The interview process will be coming up and Lisa Falls, Assistant Director of Services, Kathryn McAllister, Supervisor of Child Services and Margret Allen, CAC Coordinator will be doing the interview.

 - **United Way Volunteer of the Year** - The Annual Meeting of United Way of Kent County. This is a breakfast meeting where as the United Way reports to its Member Agencies, board members and officers are elected during this meeting Business Partners will be introduced and each Agency's Volunteer of the Year will be honored. This is an important annual event for United Way and the community. Dr. Kevin Karpowicz was Volunteer of the Year for Kent County CARES Foundation.

 - **BACA presentation** – On April 10th Members of BACA came to the agency to give a presentation on what they do and what their mission is. Shelly gave a brief description of who they are. BACA stands for Bikers Against Child Abuse. Their intent is to create a safer environment for abused children. They are a body of Bikers to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live and lend support to our wounded friends by involving them with a united organization. BACA work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect children. They desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of the organization and that we are prepared to lend our physical and emotional support to them by

affiliation, and out physical presence. Currently BACA has at least one chapter in each state with the exceptions of Delaware, Hawaii and New Mexico. Maryland has 4 chapters. Each member is extensively trained and background checks are done.

- How it works (this is taken directly from BACA website) for additional information visit www.bacaworld.org.

How B.A.C.A. Works

- B.A.C.A. International, Inc. (B.A.C.A.) is organized with a central contact person to receive calls from referring agencies and individuals. A recognized, authorized agency with which the child has had contact determines that the child is still frightened by his or her environment. The agency representative contacts B.A.C.A., or refers the individual to contact B.A.C.A. and the name and address of the child is given to our B.A.C.A./Child Liaison. The Liaison verifies that the case has been reported and the authorities have been contacted, and the case is being processed within the system. The Liaison contacts the family and an initial ride is organized to meet the child at their home or in some other location where the child will feel comfortable. The B.A.C.A. chapter rides to meet the child and he/she is given a vest with a B.A.C.A. patch sewn on the back. The child is free to wear the vest or not, and we support their decision. The child is also given bumper stickers, and other gifts that are generally donated by the public. These initial visits generally last about a half an hour.
- Following this initial contact, the child is given the name and number of two B.A.C.A. Members residing geographically closest to them, who then become the child's primary contacts. Prior to becoming the primary contacts for the child, the bikers are cleared for participation by passing an extensive background check, have ridden with the Chapter for at least a year, and have received special instructions from the Licensed Mental Health Professional. Anytime the child feels scared and feels the need for the presence of his new B.A.C.A. family, the child may call upon these bikers to go to the child's house and provide the necessary reassurance to feel safe and protected. B.A.C.A. Members and supporters also support the children by: providing escorts for them if they feel scared in their neighborhoods; riding by their homes on a regular basis; supporting the children at court and parole hearings; attending their interviews, and; staying with the children if they are alone and frightened. The B.A.C.A. Members never go to the child's house alone and never without the knowledge or permission of the parents. Our Mission is not to be permanently engaged as the child's power. Our Mission is to help the children and their families learn how powerful they can be. Our presence will be available as long as the child needs us. B.A.C.A. also holds other functions for the children such as Bar-B-Ques, and parties.
- Senior Summit , Easton MD – Shelly mentioned the 3rd Annual Senior Summit in Talbot County at Talbot Community Center and if anyone was interested in attending and if they knew of someone that could benefit to please pass around the flyer.
- Additional Topics –
 - Community Unity Day was attended by the agency on Saturday April 14 and it was a well attended event and staff got to speak with College students, faculty and community about services we offer and possible internship opportunities.
 - PQI – Risk Management Report out given. The Risk Committee identified the need to slow cars down going through the parking lot of the Agency. There has been a few near accidents with clients or staff being hit due to speeding and entering the lot the wrong way. The Committee has sent a request to the Department of General Services to review and provide guidance before approaching KRM which is the landlord of the building. It came back that a \$10,000 study would be required before speed bumps could be installed. The committee is looking into better signage in hopes that will help in the meantime. The committee will continue to work on this issue and provide the best possible solution.
 - Strategic Plan Session - The Executive Team and Management Team will be in an all day session on May 30, 2018 working on developing the agency's strategic plan for the next three fiscal years. It will be shared in July with the board.

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

- The next meeting will be held May 21, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle

Recording Secretary