

**Kent County Department of Social Services**  
**Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 15, 2019 3:30 PM**

**Present:** Beverly Birkmire, Karen Dioniosi, Olythea Hunley, Bob Jacob, Kevin Karpowicz, Charlotte Potts, William Washington, Tracy Williams, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Patty Dahle (scribe)

**Absent:** Rosalie Kuechler

**Presentation:** Kathryn McAllister and Marti Lively presented about Adult Services and Public Guardianship

**Chairperson's Report :**

- Approval of minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup> ( do to not having a quorum minutes from February could not be approve at March's meeting) and March 18<sup>th</sup> meetings. Motion to approve made by Karen Dioniosi and second by Beverly Birkmire motion carried by unanimous vote.

➤ **Kent County CARES Foundation**

- Spoke about all the activities that have taken place or will take place during April. Proclamation event was well attended and covered by the press.
- Withdrawal request was presented to the board for approval.
  - CAC requested \$798.00 in United Way monies to send two Law Enforcement on MDT team to Cognitive Interviewing, Communication and influence training, The Board approved and motion carried by unanimous vote.
  - CAC request up to \$700.00 to offset the costs of Child Abuse Prevention Month Initiative. This includes but not limited to decals, purchasing of banner, mass mailing and giveaways. The Board asked that an itemized bill be presented to them for approval with an exact dollar amount.

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

- **Divisional Performance Report –February and March** reviewed at meeting. No questioned were raised. Shelly did mention Child Support is strategically planning to collect more child support arrears.
- **SNAP Project update due to Federal shutdown** – Shelly explained that SNAP recipients received their March benefits on the 6<sup>th</sup>. April is back to the normal schedule. This was all do to the Federal shutdown. Source was located and the agency was able to put together 30 bags of canned and non perishable items to give to out to people in need. Shelly also mentioned that this program is not intended to live off of.
- **Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Initiatives / Events –**
  - **Commissioners issued a proclamation** to the Department of Social Services declaring April Child Abuse Awareness Month urging “all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect. A proclamation reception was held at Sumner Hall on April 9<sup>th</sup> and was well attend. David Lee, DHS Assistant Deputy Secretary was in attendance along with Maryland State Police, Kent County State’s Attorney’s office, State’s Attorney, Maryland Shore Regional Health, Chestertown Police, County administrator, Mid Shore Council on Family Violence, Maryland Children’s Alliance.

- **Pin Wheels in the Park** had a great turn out the rain did not deter from the event.
- **Belonging Blue Day** - Friday, April 26, 2019. It is an initiative to create belonging in our community for children and families impacted by child maltreatment by wearing Blue on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>
  
- **Visit from David Lee** – David is the Assistant Deputy Director of Programs for the Department of Human Service. He came to Kent County to attend the Proclamation reception but also took the time to come to the agency and meet the staff and have a discussion with the Assistant Directors. It was a very positive visit.
  
- **Reminder:**
  - **MASSB Annual Conference** The Annual Conference will be held on October 24 & 25, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Solomons Island.
  - **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Summit** – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Easton, MD
  
- **Additional Topics** - No additional topics.
  
- The next meeting will be held May 20, 2019 at 3:30pm in the Child Support Conference Room, 315 High Street, Chestertown, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dahle, Recording Secretary