

**King and Queen Department of Social Services
King and Queen CH, VA 23085
Advisory Board Minutes
February 28, 2023**

Present

Vivian Seay, County Administrator
Angie Alley, Chair
Bette Albert, Vice Chair
Alda Norris, Member
Sandra Burrell, Member
Betty A. Dougherty, Director
Linda Cooke, Assistant Director
Kittie Scott, Benefits Programs Supervisor
Lisa Lose, Administrative Programs Assistant II

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. on February 28, 2023, by Angie Alley, Chair.

Welcome Vivian Seay, County Administrator

Betty Dougherty announced Vivian Seay, County Administrator to the Advisory Board Members. Introductions were made by all Board Members.

Welcome Linda Cooke, Social Services Assistant Director

Betty Dougherty announced Linda Cooke as King & Queen's new Social Services Assistant Director.

Public Comment Period

No public comment to be noted.

Consent Agenda

The November 15, 2022, meeting minutes, statistical reports, and the Directors report were included in the consent agenda. Alda Norris made a motion to approve the agenda and Bette Albert seconded the motion. All were approved by consensus of the Members.

Director's Report

Personnel Changes

We recently lost two of our long-term employees, the Family Services Supervisor and the Family Services Specialist IV during the month of February. This was two hard hits for agency.

We promoted a Human Services Assistant to a Family Services Specialist through competitive recruitment. This filled one of our vacant positions that has been vacant for several months.

Our Program Coordinator was appointed to serve as Interim Family Services Supervisor during our recruitment period to fill the position. She will be working very closely with me during her training process. Until she completes her mandated training, I will be making all program decisions on cases.

The Administrative Services Manager was promoted to Assistant Director effective March 1, 2023.

Child Welfare Storm

We are seeing unprecedented numbers of child protective services referrals in our County. Not only are we seeing a higher number of referrals, we are also encountering very complicated and dangerous situations. Most of our referrals involve domestic violence and substance abuse and have law enforcement involvement. We are also getting referrals of children out of control especially teens.

Court Work

SNAP Fraud Case

On February 14, 2023, we had a case in circuit court for SNAP fraud for over \$25,000. The outcome was that the recipient got 10 years in prison suspended, probation for 20 years, restitution of \$100/month for 20 years, and cannot receive SNAP for 12 months.

Termination of Parental Rights

On February 14, 2023, we had a circuit court appeal hearing for termination of parental rights for 2 of our foster children. The hearing took almost 6 hours. We are waiting the required 30 days for the next level of appeal and will then plan to move forward with permanency for the children.

Energy Assistance

We are still operating the Crisis Assistance Program which began on November 1 and ends on March 1, 2023. The Crisis Assistance Program is intended to meet a household emergency heating need when no other resource is available.

As a reminder, we also have the Energy Share program that runs year around, as funding is made available to us. This program can also help with ensuring that our citizens have heat this winter.

2022 County Holiday Program

Thanks to the benevolent and generous hearts of the people of King and Queen County and our local affiliates, we had another successful holiday program this year. This year we supplemented Christmas for 188 children residing in 72 families with the assistance of 34

sponsors. Churches and businesses adopted children, some of our county departments adopted a child, individual employees adopted one or more children, and 13 individual residents in our county adopted children. One of our families even had their Christmas gifts delivered by Santa in a helicopter.

The following are some of our program sponsors:

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bay Aging | New Hope Baptist |
| C&F Bank | New Morning Star Baptist Church |
| Circuit Court | Old Church |
| Department of Juvenile Justice | Olivet Baptist Church |
| Gloucester CERT | Poroporone Baptist Church |
| Lower King and Queen Baptist | Project Big Heart |
| National Honor Society | School Board Office |
| Shackleford's Chapel UMC | Virginia Cooperative Extension |
| Smyrna Christian Church | VCU Health |
| Social Services | WRAR |
| Union Prospect Church | |

Benefit Program Unwinding

The unwinding of benefit programs began this month with the loss of the additional SNAP emergency allotment. The unwinding of Medicaid will begin April 1, 2023. As a reminder, the unwinding may be a difficult time for many of our citizens trying to adjust back to our previous business model and normal benefit process. If you receive any complaints during this difficult time, please direct the citizens to call or email me. Our employees will likely be working overtime for a few months following the end of the public health emergency. I am planning to do all that is possible to minimize the need for overtime with intentional planning and putting good processes in place for an efficient workflow.

County Medical Resource

The Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic provides medical, dental and behavioral health care for uninsured adults at or below 300% FPL, and also serves those with Medicaid. The clinic recently extended its services to residents in the three southernmost zip codes of King & Queen County – 23156, 23110 and 23149. King & Queen residents in those zip codes who are uninsured are eligible to receive care at the clinic. I have attached their general brochure to this report for your convenience. I have also invited them to come out to the County and speak to groups such as the Resource Council, CPMT and FAPT to help us to get the word out into the community. We anticipate when the Public Health Emergency ends in 2023 that some citizens currently on Medicaid may lose their coverage and can benefit from the services of this clinic if they financially qualify.

Family Resource Center

In support of Thrive Virginia we partnered with them to apply for a Families Forward grant to create a Family Resource Center physically located in King and Queen County. A part of the grant requirements was to identify and secure a location where the center would be located. With the help of County staff, especially Donna Sprouse, we identified and secured a building near the corner of Rt. 14 and 33. I learned on Monday December 5, 2023, that we were awarded a grant of \$249,728. I attended a mandatory meeting on December 12 to learn the additional steps involved in the process. We are so excited about the prospect of having a Family Service Center. I hope to have additional information for you soon.

Benefit Fraud Presentation

Kittie Scott, Benefit Programs Supervisor gave the presentation on Benefit Fraud.

Board Member Agenda Items

Alda Norris informed the members that she spoke with Gail Clark from Country Courier and negotiated a cost of \$475 monthly (2 copies per month) to be split between King & Queen DSS & King William DSS for flyer insertions. During Ms. Clark and Alda Norris' conversation it was discovered that there may be some delivery issues with the St. Stephens Post Office. Alda Norris reported that Ms. Clark would be looking into this problem with the St. Stephens Post Office. Bette Albert agreed that this is a problem worth looking into since St. Stephens Post Office services a large population.

Vivian Seay suggested that it could be beneficial to contact US Congressman Rob Wittman. Until questions with delivery services are answered Bette Albert confirms with all members that flyers in the Country Courier be paused. All members agree.

The month of May is the specific month that the K&Q & KW DSS were interested in having the flyers inserted for APS Betty Dougherty informed the members. Alda Norris suggested to Betty Dougherty that King William DSS should reach out to their local Post Office to check about the delivery service.

Alda Norris raised a question if it would be beneficial for the members to have IDs to present if questioned. It was brought to the attention by Betty Dougherty that the county website provides a list of the Advisory Board Members.

Sandra Burrell questioned the steps for applying for benefits for elderly residents with transportation issues. Betty Dougherty instructed Sandra Burrell that if a resident meets certain criterias that a benefits case worker could go to a residents home.

Board Member Updates from Districts

Bette Albert says that a major population is in need in the lower end of the county. Marriott library maybe would have some resources to provide to the public.

Angie Alley says that there maybe an options to parents without transportation. Bay Heart offers transportation for behavioral programs.

Alda Norris spoke about the possible need to bring back the resource building that was in the planning process 10+ years ago that she purposed.

Board Member Training

Training began at 11:48 a.m. Those present for training included:

Vivian Seay, County Administrator

Angie Alley, Chair

Bette Albert, Vice Chair

Alda Norris, Member

Sandra Burrell, Member

Betty A. Dougherty, Director

Linda Cooke, Assistant Director

Lisa Lose, Administrative Programs Assistant II

Betty Dougherty informed the members that the next training could be the members' choice to complete themselves or arrangements for another training session could be scheduled. As for this training it would be logged as batch enrolled.

Meeting adjourned by Angie Alley, Chair at 1:18 p.m.