

**King and Queen Department of Social Services
King and Queen CH, VA 23085
Advisory Board Minutes
April 25, 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
Lisa Lose, Administrative Programs Assistant II

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m. on April 25, 2023, by Angie Alley, Chair.

Public Comment Period

No public comment to be noted.

Consent Agenda

The February 28, 2023, meeting minutes, statistical reports, and the Directors report were included in the consent agenda. Bette Albert commented that the placement of the Thrive office has been trivial and is still being decided. Angie Alley commented about the statistical reports are on an incline. Betty Dougherty highlighted from the Director's report that she expects many appeals, and that the office has 1,068 cases to be unwound. Also, that on June 27th Advisory Board meeting she plans to have all new staffing met with the Board members. Bette Albert made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Sandra Burrell seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved.

Director's Report

Personnel

Following several months of recruitment, we finally have a full family services team. We are now poised to move forward with interviews to fill the Family Services Supervisor and Administrative Office Manager position.

Our June meeting will include all Social Service employees. Board Members will have the opportunity to interact with and learn more about our employees and their roles in the community.

Benefit Programs

Medicaid Unwinding

Unwinding officially began April 1 and we will be doing manual renewals on all Medicaid enrollees in the County. King and Queen County has 1,068 Medicaid cases which is 1,858 enrollees. For the month of May we have 122 Medicaid renewals to complete manually.

Energy Assistance

The heating and crisis assistance season ended on March 1. We processed 210 applications for heating assistance, 184 were approved, and 26 denied. We processed 110 crisis applications. 65 were approved and 45 were denied. As a reminder, we also have the Energy Share program that runs year around, as funding is made available to us.

SNAP

The SNAP emergency allotments ended on February 16. 625 households stopped receiving the additional emergency SNAP benefits on that date. This change resulting from the declaration of the end of the public health emergency impacts 1,161 people in our county.

Community Outreach

We are providing outreach services on the first Thursday of every month 11:30-7:00 at the King and Queen library and the third Thursday of each month 8:30-4:00 at the Job Assistance Center. Our goal is to provide improved access to our benefit programs for residents in the lower and upper ends of the County. We are there to provide assistance and answer questions about family, food, energy, and medical assistance. We can also assist with building work skills and seeking employment through the Virginia Initiative for Employment and Work. No appointment is necessary.

Family Services

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention month. We have a table display in the hallway with information about child abuse and neglect to take away. We received 100 referrals of child abuse and neglect to assess and investigate in 2022. We have placed a pinwheel in the courtyard for each of those children. We will all wear blue on April 19 to raise awareness and we invited of you will join us and wear your blue that day.

Safe and Sound Task Force Grant

The Virginia Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2022 Special Session I, Item 340.M allocates funds for the purpose of supporting the initiatives of the Safe and Sound Task Force including community-based treatments, support for kinship, foster and adoptive families, and trauma-informed care for children in foster care who are displaced or who are at risk of being displaced.

We applied for and was awarded a mini-grant of \$12,500 with no local match under the Safe and Sound Task Force Grant to refurbish our family room inside of the agency. This is a room where we interview and work with families during some of their most difficult times. Our goal is to create a calming environment that can serve many purposes in our work with families. We have been coordinating with the County Administrator and Director of Maintenance on the paint and flooring part of the project.

Child Protective Services Mandated Reporter Training

Linda Cooke presented the training which began at 10:32 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 she had met with the Regional Director, and she was open to doing the training a different way. The Regional Director has since tasked the Regional Administrative Manager to submit for final decision. So, currently we are awaiting final decision.

Board Member Agenda Items

Alda Norris mentioned about business cards for the Board members as discussed from February 28th Advisory Board meeting. She expressed that explaining the process of going onto the website of King & Queen County to people is difficult and that people are unsure where to go for validation. Betty Dougherty questioned if she felt that business cards that they had in the past with agency name, address and contact number was sufficient and Alda Norris agreed that it would be. Betty also recommended maybe for anyone interested to come by the office to get our agency brochures and that was praised as a better idea because of the amount of information provided on them.

Board Member Updates from Districts

Betty Dougherty passed out the County Courier Insert Flyers made by Brittany Lawson for the Board Members to review. All members agreed that they were nicely done and very informative.

Alda Norris questioned when/if we will start meeting in person for the Resource Council and it was stated by Betty Dougherty that we are unsure at this moment. It was also questioned by Alda Norris if we expect to have Yoots & Coots again this year and due to staffing it is not likely Betty Dougherty informed.

Sandra Burrell updated the members about the family that she was helping. The resident is now up and walking with the assistance of a walker and was seen at the local grocery store shopping. She was able to obtain transportation from a local service to do so. Sandra Burrell stated that she is looking forward to eventually going back to work but needs personal transportation for the family. Sandra Burrell said that she was going to investigate a program in Richmond that donated transportation to needy families. Betty Dougherty suggested that it might be beneficial to put a paragraph summary about the family together to submit to the Resource Council. They have been known to help families in needy situation in the past.

Meeting adjourned by Angie Alley, at 11:43 a.m.