

**King and Queen Department of Social Services  
King and Queen CH, VA 23085  
Advisory Board Minutes  
August 22, 2023**

**Present**

Vivian Seay, County Administrator  
Angie Alley, Chair  
Bette Albert, Vice Chair  
Alda Norris, Member  
Sandra Burrell, Member  
Betty A. Dougherty, Director  
Brittany Lawson, Family Services Supervisor  
Kittie Scott, Benefit Programs Supervisor  
Lisa Lose, Administrative Office Manager

**Social Services Advisory Board Meeting Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 22, 2023, by Angie Alley, Chair.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comment to be noted.

**Consent Agenda**

The June 27, 2023, meeting minutes, statistical reports, and the Directors report were included in the consent agenda. Bette Albert made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Sandra Burrell seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved.

**Director's Report**

**King and Queen County Family Resource Center**

Families Forward Virginia approved the implementation plan for the King and Queen County Family Resource Center. This plan was created by the Family Well-Being Team made up solely of professionals serving and citizens living in King and Queen County. This begins the next phase known as the implementation phase. The center has an official name now "King and Queen Care Center" The grand opening was August 3. From this point forward we will be building programs with the community partners and making decisions about the resources and services to be provided at the center. Social Services will offer office hours at the center for the convenience of our citizens. The center is located at 4460 Lewis B. Puller Memorial Highway in Shackleford's.

**Foster Parent Recruitment**

We are ramping up our recruitment of foster parents in the County and going digital with our inquiry process. Foster parents provide temporary care for children until it is safe for them to go back home. We are especially in need of foster parents that are interested in parenting adolescents and teens. To be a foster parent in Virginia you must be at least 18 years of age. Individuals and couples are eligible to be foster parents if they

meet all the approval requirements. The approval involves background checks and a home study. You can use the QR code on our new flyer to begin an inquiry. The inquiry is not a commitment. You are just providing information so that the department can reach out to you and provide you with additional information and answer your questions about becoming a foster parent.

### **Motivational Interviewing Training**

The Virginia Department of Social Services is providing training for our employees on motivational interviewing with funds available through the Families First Prevention Services Act. Our employees will complete a 10-week program called “Empowering Change.” It is a course in Trauma -informed Motivational Interviewing. **Motivational Interviewing** is an evidence-based approach utilized to help people overcome their ambivalence to change. It is a collaborative, goal-oriented system of communication that is designed to strengthen personal motivation for and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person’s own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion. The training is intended to strengthen our engagement with families and assist in improving outcomes for families.

Motivational interviewing can be utilized on every level of any organization. We can use it when working with our clients, customers, coworkers, and our community partners. It is also a great tool for leaders to use in facilitating a collaborative change in any one department or all across county departments. Our leadership team is also engaging in a book study together using the *book Motivational Interviewing for Leaders in the Helping Professions: Facilitating Change in Organizations*.

### **Board Member Agenda Items**

Alda Norris expressed that she had went to the Upper Ruritan Club and was disappointed that there were not enough tables for The National Night-Out Event. She felt that the Social Services should have had a sign as well as their own space. Betty Dougherty explained that we do have a tent that says King and Queen County but at this event especially, it is not uncommon to share a table. Bette Albert felt that the flyers in the Country Carrier were very informative and nicely done. Alda Norris questioned if we would be doing it again. Betty Dougherty said that if we had funding available. Alda raised a suggestion, would be possible to do a fund raiser just for flyer inserts?

### **Board Member Updates from Districts**

Bette Albert said that RiverStreet Networks has gotten her area setup. She said that they were a nice, professional team to work with overall “Great Service!” Bette Albert adds that some people were missed to which Vivia Seay explained that connections must be properly connected first before it makes its way to the homes. It’s currently still in the process of being routed to the homes.

### **Team Leadership Presentations**

Lisa Lose, Kittie Scott and Brittany Lawson gave the Team Leadership Presentation.

### **Department Mission, Vision, Values Presentation**

All Social Services staff gave the Mission, Vision, Values Presentation.

### **Board and Employee Appreciation Lunch**

**Meeting adjourned by Angie Alley, at 12:12 p.m.**