**King and Queen Department of Social Services**

**King and Queen CH, VA 23085**

**Advisory Board Minutes**

**December 19, 2023**

**Present**

Vivian Seay, County Administrator

Angie Alley, Chair

Bette Albert, Vice Chair

Alda Norris, Member

Sandra Burrell, Member

Betty A. Dougherty, Director

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 19, 2023, by Angie Alley, Chair.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comment to be noted.

**Consent Agenda**

The October 24, 2023 meeting minutes, statistical reports for October and November 2023, and the Directors report were included in the consent agenda. Alda Norris 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 Family C.A.R.E Center**

The center is up and running and active with community programming and resources. Thrive VA recently received $100,000 from the Jesse Ball DuPont Fund specifically to support the King and Queen Family C.A.R.E. Center.

**Changes to SNAP Work Requirements and Exemptions**

The work requirement component of SNAP has been in effect since 1996. It requires that adults who can work must work, participate in a work activity, or meet an exemption to be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Unless an exemption is met, individuals are limited to receiving three months of SNAP benefits during a three-year period.

On June 3, 2023, the President signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act “FRA” of 2023 into law.  The FRA gradually increases the age of those subject to the able-bodied adults without dependents time limit and adds three new exemptions.

* Effective September 1, 2023, individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 are subject to the work requirement.
* Effective October 1, 2023, individuals between the ages of 18 and 52 are subject to the work requirement.
* Effective October 1, 2024, individuals between the ages of 18 and 54 are subject to the work requirement.

The three new exemptions are:

1. Homeless
2. A United States Veteran
3. Age 24 or younger and were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

**Safe Haven Initiative**

The *Safe Haven Initiative*, is a collaborative partnership between the Virginia Department of Social Services and the National Safe Haven Alliance, designed to raise awareness about Virginia’s Safe Haven laws. Safe Haven Toolkits (print and digital) have been provided to local departments of social services and community partners.  There are also five billboards, one in each region, across the Commonwealth.

Safe Haven laws aim to prevent the abandonment of infants in unsafe locations. In Virginia, Safe Haven laws allow a parent to safely surrender their unharmed infant who is 30 days old or younger to a staff member at a designated Safe Haven location or in a newborn safety device operated at a Safe Haven location.

Designated Safe Haven Locations in Virginia:

* 1. A hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services.
  2. An attended Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency that employs emergency medical personnel, such as fire stations or rescue squads.
  3. A newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency medical services agency.

The crisis hotline is 1-888-510-BABY (2229). Parents can call to get help or learn where the closest Safe Haven is located.

Please assist us in getting this word out in King and Queen County. We are working to get this information out into the community through social media, bulletin boards, community events, and speaking engagements.

**Percentage of Payment Income Program**

The Percentage of Payment Income Program “PIPP” officially goes live January 2, 2024. As a reminder this is the new energy program provided by Dominion Energy for their customers. In our County, only citizens served by Dominion will have access to the program.

**A Look Back into 2023 and Moving Forward into 2024**

Director Betty Dougherty did a presentation for the Board on challenges and wins in 2023 and challenges and opportunities coming in 2024.

**Board Member Agenda Items and Updates from Districts**

Alda Norris gave an update on TRIAD. She informed the Board that TRIAD is planning two events for 2024. The first one will be in March and she did not have the second date available.

**Meeting adjourned by Angie Alley, at 11:05 p.m.**