**King and Queen Department of Social Services**

**King and Queen CH, VA 23085**

**Social Services Advisory Board Minutes**

**April 23, 2024**

**Present**

Angie Alley, Chair

Bette Albert, Vice Chair

Alda Norris, Member

Sandra Burrell, Member

Kimberly Sadler, Member

Vivian Seay, County Administrator

Betty A. Dougherty, Director

Linda Cooke, Assistant Director

Lisa Lose, Administrative Programs Assistant II

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 23, 2023, by Angie Alley, Chair.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comment to be noted.

**Consent Agenda**

The December 19, 2023, meeting minutes, statistical reports, and the Directors report were included in the consent agenda. The Chair noted that due to an unexpected lack of member quorum at the February meeting, the December minutes could not be approved and no minutes were taken for the February meeting. Bette Albert made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Sandra Burrell seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved.

**Director’s Report**

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is celebrated nationally as Child Abuse Prevention month. This year we are hosting two events on April 22. The first is a training event for professionals that work with children and families such as social services, law enforcement, Fire and EMS, CSB, DJJ, and school employees. Medical experts in child abuse and neglect from VCU will be providing training free of charge to us. We are also offering seats in this training to our colleagues in surrounding counties. The event will be held in the King and Queen Library building.

The second event is for anyone interested in preventing child abuse and learning when and how to report child abuse. This event will be held 4:00-5:30 in the Courthouse Administration Building.

We also put out pinwheels in the courthouse area and at our schools.

Percentage of Payment Income Program

The Percentage of Payment Income Program “PIPP” went live on January 2, 2024. As a reminder this is the new energy program provided by Dominion Energy for their customers to assist with electric bills. In our County, only citizens served by Dominion will have access to the program. As of March, we had 30 families enrolled in the program.

Celebrating Our Employees

February was Benefit Programs Specialists month and March was Social Work month. We set a day aside in each month to celebrate that team to let them know how much we appreciate them and their contributions and commitment to our community. Later in April we will be celebrating our Administrative Team.

Personnel Report

We have experienced another surge in turnover very similar to the one we experienced in early 2023. We have been fortunate to have some very qualified and experienced applicants to fill those vacated positions, as well as being able to fill the Administrative Programs Assistant position which we have purposely left vacant for almost a year. The only position that remains very challenging to fill is the Family Services Specialist position. This is likely due to the *VA Code* requirement for a degree as well as the requirement to perform on-call work.

Department Renovation

The County Administrator placed Social Services first on the list for new paint and flooring this year. Our building was completed in 1996 and this will be first time since then that our department has been painted or had new flooring with the exception of the family room which was recently painted with state grant funds.

**New Health Navigator for King and Queen County**

Karen Forde talked about her new position at Thrive VA and gave a presentation on Thrives programs.

**CPS Mandated Reporter Training**

Becca Pike, Family Services Specialist IV and Investigator Cusick with the Sheriff’s Department provided the Board with their CPS mandated reporter training with a training called “Know Before You Report.”

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

Alda Norris had some questions on the library and Vivian Seay gave us an update on the progress being made with books and computers for the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11.

**Safe and Stable Family Program Presentation**

Brittany Lawson, Program Coordinator gave the presentation Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant (PSSF)

**Planning 2022 and 2023 Meeting Topics**

November 15, 2022 – Kinship Care – Gina Kane, Family Services Supervisor

A change to the meeting time was proposed by Sandra Burrell. She suggested that 2023 meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. Board Members will check their schedules and approve the 2023 meeting schedule at their November meeting.

Board Members recommended the following meeting topics for 2023:

1. Fraud Presentation
2. Department Presentations- Meet the Employees
3. County Administrator, Vivian Seay
4. SNAP Presentation
5. Mandated Reporter Training
6. Supervisor Annual Program Reports
7. Medicaid – Families and Children

**Board Members Updates from Districts**

Alda Norris reported that her residential area has gotten together to comprise a “phone tree.”

A goal that Alda Norris presented to the Board was to reach out to the churches and to look into giving presentations. Alda Norris also announced the news of a new farm, Cedar Farm on Newtown Rd.

Bette Albert informed the Board that Poroporone Baptist Church is running a pantry.

Angie Alley reported that Broadband is coming to her area (Plainview) and she has heard great things.

**Meeting adjourned by Betty Dougherty at 10:30 a.m.**