**King and Queen Department of Social Services**

**King and Queen CH, VA 23085**

**Social Services Advisory Board Minutes**

**October 29, 2024**

**Present**

Angie Alley, Chair

Bette Albert, Vice Chair

Betty A. Dougherty, Director

Linda Cooke, Assistant Director

Lisa Lose, Administrative Office Manager

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on October 29, 2024, by Angie Alley, Chair.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comment to be noted.

**Habitat for Humanity Presentation**

Jason Tickle President & CEO presented the Habitat for Humanity Presentation.

**Consent Agenda**

The August 27, 2024, meeting minutes, statistical reports, and the Directors report were included in the consent agenda there was no quorum to approve.

**Director’s Report**

**Fatherhood Incentive Grant**

We were awarded a $12,500 grant with no local match to do activities and programs in our County with a focus on fatherhood. The Family Services Team planned our first event for Friday January 24, 2025 6:00-8:00 PM at Central High School. It will be a Winter Ball for fathers and daughters from Pre-K to 8th grade. There will be a photographer, so each participant will receive a photo. There will be flowers, balloons, good food, and a raffle. We are still in the planning process.

**Heating Assistance Program**

We are currently accepting applications for our Heating Assistance Program. Heating Assistance provides payment for fuel or electricity to operate heating equipment. The application deadline to apply is November 8. We will begin accepting crisis applications on November 1.

**Social Services Budget**

The Assistant Director will be presenting our FY 26 social services budget to you at our next meeting in preparation for her presenting her very first budget to the Board of Supervisors in 2025.

**Personnel Update**

As of October 23, 2024, we filled all of our vacant positions on the Benefits Team except the Self-Sufficiency position. We may need additional benefit positions later but we are getting our new team members trained and acclimated before making that decision. We hired a second part-time emergency worker for that team to assist us through the transformation. All positions are filled on the Family Services Team. All positions are filled on the Administrative Team except for the Fiscal Assistant.

**Community Work in 2024**

Our employees participated in the following community activities so far in 2024.

· Senior Spring Fling

· Mandated Reporter Training at School with Cusick

· Child Abuse and Neglect Training by VCU at King and Queen Library

· Recognizing and Reporting Abuse Training at Courthouse

· Back to School Night - Lawson Elementary School

· National Night Out - Upper

· National Night Out - Lower End of County

· Walkerton Day

· Monthly C.A.R.E. meetings at the Family Center in Shackleford’s

· Monthly Resource Council Meetings

**County Administrator’s Report**

Due to Vivian’s absence, there was no report.

**Board Member Updates from Districts**

* Linda: Reported that the recruitment system issues she was experiencing appear to be resolved.
* Betty: Announced that the Commissioner’s Office is currently hiring.
* Bette: Shared feedback regarding concerns about:
	+ Younger students spending excessive time on the bus during their commute.
	+ The potential loss of the Lawson name for the school, given its historical significance.
	+ Increased interest in the Christmas program. Personally expressed excitement about the new campus.
* Angie: Noted a similar experience regarding the move of King William out of Pamunkey, stating that initial concerns caused disruptions but have since settled.

**Planning Future Meetings**

* Betty will bring a list of proposed dates for future meetings.
* A list of current board members will also be provided.
* Betty inquired if anyone had topics they would like to discuss.
* Angie suggested it would be beneficial to hear from Vivian regarding updates on the school campus.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18.