

**York-Poquoson
Social Service Advisory Board
Minutes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

Present:

Board Members: Roy Staton, Chair
James Tucker, Vice-Chair
Brian Fuller
Lourdes Guidicelli-Gadea
Carolyn Griffith
Mary Ann Meyer

Absent: Michael Chandler

Other Attendees: Margaret Mack-Yaroch, Director
Neil Morgan, York County Administrator
Randy Wheeler, Poquoson City Manager
Burnie Hendricks, Assistant Director – (Benefits)
Candace Mickelborough, Assistant Director – (Services)
Patti Alderman, Administrative Services Manager
Tedra Collins, Administrative Coordinator/Assistant of Director

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Mr. Staton, Chairperson.

Ordering of the Agenda:

There was no re-ordering of the Agenda.

Public Comment Period:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

New Employee Introductions:

Jennifer Bolden, Child Welfare Services Supervisor, introduced the two newest Family Services Specialists that began with us on August 2.

Monica Birchette graduated in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. She chose to start her career with our agency as a Family Services Specialist I.

Sabrina Curry relocated from New York where she previously worked in the Department of Education for thirteen years. She worked as a Social Worker for seven years, which has always been a passion of hers. Sabrina received a Master's in Social work from Columbia University. With her wealth of experience, she will be a definite asset to our agency as a Family Services Specialist III.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Brian Fuller to approve the minutes of June 16, 2021. Dr. Tucker

seconded the motion. All approved; motion passed.

Statistical Reports:

The Board reviewed the statistical reports in the Board Book. After some discussion Statistical Reports remained as submitted.

Assistant Director's Reports:

Burnie Hendricks, Assistant Director, relayed Benefit Programs updates.

Medical Assistance -The Public Health Emergency has extended medical assistance for an additional 90 days (October 2021). Dental benefits are now available for adults with full coverage effective July 1, 2021.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Interview waiver is extended through September 2021. Starting in October, almost all SNAP households will see a modest increase in their benefits, and the exact amount for an individual household may be different. Effective October 1, there will be an increase.

Temporary Aide to the Needy Families (TANF) - The emergency broadband benefit program will change monthly provide \$50 dollars supplement for eligible hours and \$75 dollars for tribal land. This supplement will subsidize the cost of the internet services for a select individual for six months. Eligible households can sign up directly through their broadband provider or online.

Virginia Initiative for Education & Work (VIEW) - A survey email and text should have gone out on July 21, 2021, to former VIEW recipients who have exited the program from January – December 2019. The program believes that before listening to the voice of the customer can complement the information that we already have in our eligibility system. This will assist the Virginia Department of Social Services in designing and implementing a better work program with achievable employment outcomes.

Childcare – House bill 2206 has temporarily expanded eligibility until December 31, 2021. This will allow job search in combination with growing to eighty-five percent of the state median income.

Director's Reports:

Margaret Mack-Yaroch, the Director, updated the Advisory Board on:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is designed to help the United States recovery from the devastating economic and health effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan allows us to figure out how regionally and locally we can address areas that require strengthening and where we have a weakness. This money will come in two tranches, and York County has already received one this year and will get another in maybe a year.

Performance Indicators Monthly Report is a local social services agency report card. These report results are for performance measures tracked by Benefit Programs and Family Services.

In June, the Department of Behavioral Health and Development announced that the

Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents has reduced its bed capacity due to a staffing shortage. Riverside Behavioral Health is closing its Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program in August 2021. They are issuing this joint communication from our agencies to strongly encourage everyone delivering and coordinating care to redouble our efforts to support families by prioritizing community-based services when appropriate.

Agency Retreat scheduled at the end of September has been postponed due to COVID-19 numbers on the rise.

Vacant Positions-We are recruiting for a Benefit Programs Specialist and a Family Services Specialist.

Matters Presented by the Board:

There were no matters presented.

Next Board Meeting:

The next meeting will be on October 18, 2021. This meeting will be in-person and virtual.

Adjournment:

No further business for discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m. Brian Fuller seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Margaret Mack-Yaroch, Secretary