

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
December 4, 2017**

Attendance:

Jack Ledden, Director; Laura Brown, Program Manager; Mimi de Nicolas, Program Manager; Azita Fetterer, Administrative/Finance Manager; Mittie Wallace, Program Manager; Erika Visnevskaja, CSA Coordinator; Rochelle Ferguson, Family Services Worker; Barbara Cook, Secretary

The meeting began at 4:02 p.m. in the Janet Shannon Conference Room at DSS

The meeting minutes to the October 30th 2017 meeting were approved with one change.

Mr. Ledden reviewed the upcoming change for the Advisory Board. This is the last meeting with the current format.

Public Comment

None

Team Updates

DSS Administration – Azita Fetterer

- None

Adult & APS Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (DVAP) – Mittie Wallace

- Rochelle Ferguson gave an overview on Domestic Violence Advocacy Program's "Safe Dates" course. A peer-reviewed, evidence based curriculum was recently presented to freshmen at Liberty High School in a one-week format as part of the P.E. and Health classes. This is the first presentation since the pilot program, and it incorporated some format changes to improve upon the pilot offering, also conducted at Liberty. The recent program was very well received by students and school staff. Coaches, teachers, and counselors were also involved to provide additional support to the students. The DVAP team hopes to arrange a similar offering at Kettle Run High School and area private schools. The program will probably be offered at Fauquier High School in the spring. Ms. Ferguson also stated that although this is the only such peer reviewed evidence based curriculum available, others are going to be available in the near future to choose from.

Benefits Programs – Laura Brown

- Ms. Brown discussed the changes happening with General Relief benefits. The County is adjusting the restrictions on income limits, benefit amount limits, and on frequency and type of benefits that can be approved for a given individual. These revisions mean many more people will become eligible for GR benefits. Ms. Brown's eligibility staff is to be trained on the changes. The group discussed funds to be used for the increase in benefit approvals, and the county attorney's finalization of documents allowing the program revisions.

Children's Services Administration (CSA) – Erika Visnevskaja

- None

Family Services – Mimi de Nicolas

- Ms. de Nicolas announced that the annual Christmas party for DSS foster families is being held December 8th at Fauquier High School and invited the board members to attend.

Old Business

none

New Business

none

Announcements

none

Update and Comments – Paul McCulla

Mr. McCulla was unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26th, 2018.