

JAMES CITY COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

HUMAN SERVICES CENTER – TRAINING ROOM C
5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188
Monday, February 24, 2025 @ 3:30p.m.

I. Call to Order

Camica Credle called the meeting to order at 3:33p.m.

II. In Attendance

a) Board Members Present

Adrienne Carter
Camica Credle
Charvalla West
Chris Howard
Frank Ferguson

Board Members Absent

Derrick Jackson
Laura Hill
Melinda Marriott

b) Staff Members Present

Barbara Watson, Director of Social Services
Denise Kirschbaum, Chief of Services
Dhaniella Wijaya Munoz, Fiscal Manager
Diane Finney, Chief of Benefits
Keith Denny, Housing Program Administrator
Kim Vernall, Administrative Office Manager
Lynette Diaz, Assistant Director
Courtney Ridley, Senior Benefit Programs Specialist (Presenter)
Kim Owens, Family Services Specialist Supervisor (Presenter)
Catrice Alliers, Administrative Assistant (Minutes taken)

III. Approval of Minutes

Barbara Watson made a motion to remove Karen Davis from the Board Members Absent list on the October 28, 2024, meeting minutes. She is no longer part of the James City County Advisory Board due to moving. **Camica Credle** motioned October 28, 2024, meeting to be accepted as corrected. **Chris Howard** motion for approval and **Adrienne Carter** second.

IV. Board Members Report Out

- a) Adrienne Carter: Stop The Violence 757 10th Anniversary Gala will be held at 5:00p.m. Saturday, March 8th at Rivers Casino in Portsmouth. The Stop the Violence 757 organization is looking to create a group in Williamsburg.
- b) Camica Credle: Have been receiving an influx of calls from clients in panic for help concerning the possibility of cuts on Medicaid, SNAP and TANF.

- c) Charvalla West: United Way Peninsula Youth Collaborative (PYC) is getting together to work on gathering volunteers for the community wide effort to fill mentorship spots. Finalization in the upcoming weeks of the Housing Dashboard which will help connect organizations to each other. The United Way of The Virginia Peninsula Women United Feminine Care Drive April 28 -May 16, 2025. The Women United CommuniTea will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025.
- d) Chris Howard: In the process of collecting information on how the Republican Budget cuts are aiming towards Medicaid, Food Assistance, and many others, which will affect the lower income families in our community.
- e) Frank Ferguson: No updates.

V. Presentation: Benefits and Services to Seniors

- “Medicaid Hot Topics” Presented by Courtney Ridley, Senior Benefit Programs Specialist (Please see attached)
- Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC) Waiver Fact Sheet Presented by Kim Owens, Family Services Specialist Supervisor (Please see attached)

VI. Department Updates:

- a) Kim Vernall: The James City County Department of Social Services now has a full-time security monitor. We have currently updated our lobby with QR codes that link to our website and installed a new tv that will show updates and keep clients informed. We have been posting updates on Facebook which includes How to lock/ unlock EBT card and How to create a Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) report.
- b) Dhaniella Wijaya Munoz: The accounting department is fully staff. James City County Department of Social Services Mid- Year Review (Please see attached)
- c) Diane Finney: Medicaid unwinding has been completed. February is Benefits Program Specialist Month and tomorrow February 25th we will be hosting our Benefits Appreciation luncheon. We have finally filled our current open position for a Benefits Programs Specialist III and she will start in March. Our Benefits Programs Assistants have received over 1200 phone calls this month concerning our Medicaid and SNAP programs.
- d) Denise Kirschbaum: March is Social Worker Appreciation Month. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Child Abuse Prevention Event will be held Thursday, April 3rd located at James City County Recreation Center 5:30-7:30p.m. Friday, April 4th is National Wear Blue Day to show your support for ending child abuse. We will have two new Family Services Specialist (FSS) in our Permanency unit starting on March 1st. We have created a new unit called Family Preservation and filled our Family First Coordinator position. Our CONECT program received a \$50,000 award through the Williamsburg Health Foundation.
- e) Keith Denny: Homelessness Prevention Program – Base Realignment Act committed a half million dollars to the city of Hampton. Hampton will allocate \$86,000 to James City County.

Which would be \$17,000 a year for 5 years and has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Housing For All: A Community Conversation will be held on April 30th from 5:30-8p.m. at James City County Recreation Center. A conversation with the Board of Supervisors about developing a Community Land Trust (CLT) for James City County will be continued in June.

- f) Lynette Diaz: We currently have 6 offers on the table for new staff to start in March which would include four for Services, one for Benefits and one for Care Team. Kinship Navigator Program: The Department of Social Services has asked for it to be an evidence-based model. The Kinship Navigator Network with-in Virginia has settled on a model that is being used in Washington State and will work towards making sure they align and that our model is up to speed.

I. Directors Report

The meeting calendar have been sent out for year 2025 – 2026. Budget Review available on county website towards the end of March, which would also include public meetings and hearings. Continuation about new government center late in the year to break ground. Budget Adoption coming up in May. We have come up with ICE procedure for staff to contact leadership members. Leadership will contact the county attorney for any actions that need to take place.

II. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11p.m. The next official meeting will be held April 28th.