

JAMES CITY COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

HUMAN SERVICES CENTER – TRAINING ROOM C
5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188
Monday, April 28, 2025 @ 3:30p.m.

I. Call to Order

Camica Credle called the meeting to order at 3:38p.m.

II. In Attendance

a) Board Members Present

Adrienne Carter
Camica Credle
Charvalla West
Chris Howard
Laura Hill

Board Members Absent

Derrick Jackson
Frank Ferguson

b) Staff Members Present

Barbara Watson, Director of Social 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
Dominique Morisset, Benefit Programs Supervisor (Presenter)
Catrice Alliers, Administrative Assistant (Minutes taken)

III. Approval of Minutes

Camica Credle motioned February 24, 2025, meeting to be accepted as amended. **Adrienne Carter** motion for approval and **Chris Howard** second.

IV. Board Members Report Out

- a) Adrienne Carter: The first Freedom School will be housed at St. John Baptist Church. The idea is to have a curriculum that focuses on African American History. The Freedom School is predicted to start in July and we are looking for more churches to participate.
- b) Camica Credle: On April 30th at 7p.m. Kingdom Life Christian Church will host “Thrive in Health: Ask the Dietician” event featuring Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Rickeya Feggans.
- c) Charvalla West: The United Way of The Virginia Peninsula Women United Feminine Care Drive Aril 28 -May 16, 2025. The Women United CommuniTea will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025. We have been talking a lot with Human Service Organizations (HSOs) and

Grantmaking Organizations to navigate changes in government funding and ways to use our strengths to help within the community.

- d) Chris Howard: Thank you Barbara for your presentation at William and Mary on poverty and the need in the Triangle area.
- e) Laura Hill: The Juneteenth event hosted by James City County and the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will be held on Saturday, June 14th at Freedom Park. The 4th Annual Journey to Racial Healing Ceremony will be held on June 21st at the Stryker Center which will include a presentation by Charles Holman, whose ancestors were enslaved by the ancestors of presidents George H.W. Bush and George Bush.

V. Presentation: What is an Auxiliary Grant? Presented by Dominique Morisset

- An Auxiliary Grant (AG) is an income supplement for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain other aged, blind, or disabled individuals who reside in a licensed assisted living facility (ALF), an approved adult foster care (AFC) home, or a certified supportive housing setting.
- An Auxiliary Grant (AG) payment is issued to an individual monthly, to be used with a designated amount of their monthly income to pay the maximum monthly Auxiliary Grant (AG) rate. This rate is determined by the Virginia General Assembly and is adjusted periodically.
- The Auxiliary Grant (AG) Program is 80 percent state funded and 20 percent locally funded

Eligibility:

- Prior to admission to an assisted living facility (ALF), an individual must be assessed by a qualified assessor. Qualified assessors are employees of local departments of social services, local health departments, area agencies on aging, centers for independent living, and community services boards who have received training on conducting assessments.
- Auxiliary Grant (AG) applicants must complete an Application for Benefits and submit it to an eligibility worker at the local department of social services in the city or county where the individual lived prior to entering an institution such as an assisted living facility (ALF), hospital or nursing home.
- The eligibility worker will evaluate the individual's financial eligibility for Auxiliary Grant (AG). The worker has 45 days to process the application.
- Please visit <https://www.dars.virginia.gov/> for more information on Auxiliary Grants and Applications.

VI. Department Updates:

- a) Kim Vernall: April is Administrative Professional Month which include our Administrative unit, Accounting, IT and Security. We were all able to get together and celebrate at Freedom Park on April 24th.

- b) Dhaniella Wijaya Munoz: The accounting department is fully staff. James City County FY2026 Proposed Operating Budget was posted on the www.Jamescitycountyva.gov website. Please see Section E page 196 under Special Projects/ Grants Fund for our Children's Services Act (CSA) funding and Section F page 214 under Virginia Public Assistance for the rest of James City County Social Services funding.
- c) Diane Finney: Currently have an opening for an Intake worker as well as a Benefits Program Specialist. We have received a high number of applications from federal workers. I have attached an information guide on our current Medicaid Application Process. An update on statistics for the State Physical Year 2024 James City County had 16,199 residents receiving at least one of these three benefits SNAP, TANF and Medicaid. For the current hot topic of Medicaid Expansion which may be affected under the Executive Order, we have 3,819 residents who may be affected by that order.
- d) Keith Denny: April is Fair Housing Month. We are hosting a Housing For All: A Community Conversation event on April 30th 5 – 8pm. Housing currently have one vacant position for the First Time Homebuyer Coordinator. We completed our third Habitat blitz over the weekend working on improvements to the exteriors of homes and properties. We had 8 projects that were completed as well as street cleanup along the area.
- e) Lynette Diaz: We currently have an open position for Chief of Services and we have received a high number of federal workers applying and will start interviewing within the next few weeks. *Child Protective Services*: Experiencing a high rate of complex cases due to growth in population, mental health, domestic violence, managing basic needs and impact of environment. *Care Team*: We have hired a new Community Health Specialist who not only knows how to educate on the basic health needs but also knows how to navigate the systems. *Kinship Navigator*: Adopting the Washington State Model which will add more structure around case management. Lastly, I was currently giving the opportunity to attend the National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans and it felt great knowing that James City County Emergency Management is ahead in the planning of how we respond to an emergency.

I. Directors Report

We currently moved 10 staff members that includes our Adult, Blind and Disabled (ABD) unit, Adult Services (AS) unit, and CONECT program in which some have the chance to try out four different workstations that may be added to the new Government Center. The County is also in the process of updating the new phone systems until then, some of the staff will be using designated cellphones. The Advisory Board have received resignations from Melinda Marriott and Kenya Williams. If you know someone who would be a great fit to the James City County Advisory Board, please have them apply online. The County Budget Process continues to move forward and is anticipated to be adopted the 13th of May. The next official meeting will be held June 23rd.

II. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58p.m.