

**Charlottesville**  
**Social Services**  
**Advisory Board**

City of Charlottesville, City Hall Annex, P.O. Box 911,  
Charlottesville, VA 22902



**Christine Gough, Chair**  
**Kathryn Gallanosa, Vice Chair**

Board Members:  
Lisa Brown  
Amanda Key  
Rebekah Menning  
Cathee Johnson Phillips  
Ivy Porpotage  
Nikuyah Walker  
Judith Zeitler

**MINUTES**

Charlottesville Department of Social Services  
Advisory Board

March 26, 2018

**Board Members Present:** Christine Gough, Rebekah Menning, Ivy Porpotage, Nikuyah Walker, Judy Zeitler

**Board Members Absent:** Lisa Brown, Kathryn Gallanosa, Amanda Key, Cathee Johnson Phillips

**Staff Members Present:** Diane Kuknyo, Laura Morris

The meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m.

**Introductions:**

The board welcomed new member, Rebekah Menning.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The February minutes were approved as submitted

**Members' Report:**

None

**Chair's Report:**

**May Meeting Date:** Ms. Gough proposed changing the May meeting date as it falls on Memorial Day. Ms. Morris will e-mail board members to see if Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> will work as an alternative.

**Annual Report:** Ms. Gough shared that the annual report subcommittee has begun work on the 2018 report and asked board members if there were any specific topics they would like to highlight.

Ms. Kuknyo shared that previous years' reports have focused on:

Benefit caseloads and the number of citizens being served by benefit programs in 2015

Adult Services and the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) program in 2016

The Children & Families Practice Model (Child Protective Services, Foster Care Prevention, Foster Care, & Adoption) in 2017.

Ms. Kuknyo suggested adding the department work plan to the report and noting how it fits into the city's strategic plan.

All agreed that they would like to include recruitment and retention as a challenge and how it affects service delivery in benefit programs and family services.

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## **Director's Report:**

**Legislative Updates:** Ms. Kuknyo provided an update to several items in the general assembly:

- Funding for alternative transportation in mental health crises did not get funded.
- A statewide interagency workgroup to work on a trauma informed network did not get funded.
- Kinship care assistance was funded.
- A proposal to reduce suspension to expulsion limits in schools passed. The proposal reduces the number of days for suspension to 45 unless there are extreme situations. The proposal would also limit suspensions for preschool to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to three days.
- Extending fingerprinting/background checks to two years for child care centers passed.
- Mental health awareness training will be required for all high school students and teachers. This request was brought by three students from Albemarle High School.
- A special house committee to study school safety in Virginia is being formed.
- Expanded Medicaid moved closer to being approved. Local departments of social services are waiting to learn what federal/state funding will be provided for additional staff.

**State-wide Budget Office Visit:** The state budget office has reached out to several local departments of social services to learn about their budget processes and how changes during the year affect them. Charlottesville was selected for a visit this summer.

**The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2018 in the City Hall Basement Conference Room.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Recorded by:  
Laura Morris