

**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  
Rebekah Menning  
Cathee Johnson Phillips  
Ivy Porpotage  
Nikuyah Walker  
Judith Zeitler

**MINUTES**

Charlottesville Department of Social Services  
Advisory Board

November 26, 2018

Board Members Present: Lisa Brown, Kathryn Gallanosa, Christine Gough, Rebekah Menning, Mike Signer, Nikuyah Walker, Judith Zeitler

Board Members Absent: Cathee Johnson Phillips, Ivy Porpotage

Staff Members Present: Diane Kuknyo, and Laura Morris

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m.

**Introductions:**

The Board welcomed returning member, City Councilor, Mike Signer.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The September and October meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**Members' Report:**

Ms. Menning shared that jury selection for the Fields trial starts today and there is a network of volunteers helping to support survivors.

**Chair's Report:**

Ms. Gough shared that she has a new position with the Fluvanna Department of Social Services; but will be able to remain on the board.

**Director's Report:**

Board Opening: Ms. Kuknyo shared that City Council recently appointed LD Perry to the advisory board. She is waiting for contact information to schedule orientation before the January meeting.

Staff Holiday Luncheon: Ms. Kuknyo invited members to the department's holiday luncheon that will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 in the S&P basement conference room.

Cultural Competency Team: Ms. Kuknyo shared that the department's cultural competency workgroup would like to attend the January board meeting to discuss their upcoming initiatives and ask for board member feedback.

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Ms. Kuknyo also shared that the department will be reaching out to City schools to coordinate a training on child protective services reporting. The schools are the largest reporters and want to make sure they understand the screening process.

Medicaid Expansion: Ms. Kuknyo shared that as of November 16<sup>th</sup> the department has received 580 applications for expanded Medicaid. It is estimated that 2,000 city residents will be eligible. Also, 750 parents receiving SNAP benefits have been identified as “fast track” eligible for expanded Medicaid. They will only need to answer a couple of questions to determine eligibility versus completing a full application.

New Budget Requests for FY20: Ms. Kuknyo shared that the department has submitted 4 new requests for the upcoming FY20 budget cycle. The requests are:

- Add 1 new Benefit Programs Supervisor position. Worker positions have been added due to increased caseloads and Medicaid expansion; but not at the supervisory level.
- Add 1 new school-based family services specialist position. The department currently has 1 position at Clark Elementary and would like to expand to another elementary school. School superintendent, Rosa Atkins, supports the request.
- Offer a 3% across the board salary increase to all social services employees. It has become very difficult to fill vacancies. The department is competing with employers who can offer higher pay and better benefits.
- Add 1 new foster care prevention family services specialist position. The prevention caseload has skyrocketed. Current staff are unable to meet the monthly visitation requirement due to the number of assigned cases.

Opioid Addiction Listening Session: Ms. Kuknyo shared that the Virginia Department of Social Services recently held a listening session to discuss the increase in opioid and other drug addictions in the commonwealth and how it is affecting families. In 2015 opioid-related deaths surpassed deaths caused by prescription drug overdoses and the trend has continued in 2016 and 2017. Ms. Kuknyo is not sure where it will lead; but is glad the State is looking at the issue.

**The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2019 in the City Hall Basement Conference Room.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Recorded by:  
Laura Morris