

ALBEMARLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Chair: Mary McIntyre
Vice Chair: Amy Laufer

Present: Mary McIntyre, Natalie Detert, Willie Mae Gray, Amy Laufer, Sarah Harris, Mary Stebbins

Absent: Kaki Dimock, the Scottsville seat is still vacant.

BOS Members: none in attendance

Mary McIntyre Chair called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM

Agenda Item: Approval of the December 2022 Minutes

Discussion: Mary M asked if everyone had looked over the minutes and hearing no need for changes, she asked for a motion to approve.

Action: Sarah Harris made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2022 meeting. Willie Mae Gray seconded. Motion approved.

Agenda Item: Business from the Director – Information Items

Discussion: The unwinding of the Public Health Emergency will impact many of our clients. Residents on SNAP may now start to receive less money for SNAP and supplemental assistance is ending. Over the last year, our agency has been trying to educate the customers regarding the changes. In Albemarle County we have 16,000 clients on Medicaid. Once we start reviewing Medicaid cases there will be many customers that are no longer eligible. During the month of March our benefits staff will start reviewing 9% of the cases and this will continue about one year (which is 1500). The State is supposed to help by reviewing the cases and approving what can be approved through the ex parte process. Any that can't be approved would need to be reviewed by our agency. The County gave us three positions mid- year in anticipation of this event. We are poised to do this work and if the State can do what they plan to do it will be a great help. This change will be of great impact on Albemarle County, our economy and many of its residents individually.

Action: informational

Agenda Item: Presentation: Money and The Annual Report

Discussion: The board gave suggestions for the power point presentation for the Board of Supervisors. They asked for percentages of the data on some of the pages, suggested the last page with a Thank You message be done in a larger font to make it stand out more and match with the font on previous pages.

Action: Mary S has the notes from the suggestions to go over with Kaki.

Agenda Item: Business from the Board-Open Discussion

Discussion: Mary M. has seen pleas for money in a Charlottesville chat. Asking for \$300-\$600 for rental assistance to keep from getting evicted. She also noticed that when people offer resources, they turn that down they want money. Can they contact DSS to get assistance? Mary S said we have a small emergency fund for current clients. They can go to Pathways to seek assistance. Mary M asked if the chip shortage is affecting benefits. Wanda agreed that apparently this shortage is affecting replacement debit and credit cards. This is something to keep an eye on for sure. Yancey will be giving away car seats and cribs to families in Albemarle County. Clients would automatically be approved if they are on benefits such as: SNAP, WIC, Medicaid. This event will roll out in March. They also look at families on a case- by- case benefit. Sarah asked if we provided information about gun locks and safety. Mary S said that gun safety is part of a Home Study that is completed when ordered by the Courts. Mental Health Coalition could possibly help with providing information.

Action: Sarah has some printed information she will share. Wanda asked that we do a paragraph about the Yancey Car Seat/Crib program to send out to staff.

Message Out: No message out this month because the focus was on the Annual Report which will be presented to the BOS.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 PM

The next Advisory Board meeting will be in person the third Tuesday of the month, March 21, 2023, at 3:30 PM in Room 231

Mary McIntyre -Chair

Lisa Jordan - Secretary