

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

465 W 15th Street, Suite 100, Front Royal, Virginia 22630

January 27, 2022

The Advisory Board met in the Training Room of the Warren County Department of Social Services on January 27, 2022, with the meeting called to order at 3:59 PM by Mr. Jerome.

Members in Attendance: Lorraine Brandon, Brenda Wells, Stephen Jerome, Robert Cullers

Present for the Department: Jon Martz, Director; Christie Lawson, Assistant Director; Amanda Jenkins, Administrative Secretary

County Officials: Walter Mabe, Warren County Board of Supervisors

Guests: Linda Selover, Community Member

Approval of Minutes

Having no revisions to be made, a motion was made by Mr. Jerome to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Selover wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Election of Officers

Mr. Jerome was reelected Chairman of the Warren County Social Services Advisory Board by unanimous consent. Ms. Brandon was elected Vice Chair of the Warren County Advisory Board by unanimous consent.

Advisory Board Comments

Mr. Cullers stated that he had some issues with communication of the correct time and date of the meeting.

Unit Reports

Mr. Martz informed the Board that supervisors were not present due to COVID-19. Mr. Martz introduced Christie Lawson as the new Assistant Director. Mr. Martz stated that Miss Lawson has been with the agency for about six years. Miss Lawson has worked as a CPS worker and a CPS/APS Supervisor.

Services

Prepared by April White, Shelissa Lewis, and Lucy Riffey – Family Services Supervisors, reflective of December 2021. Presented by Jon Martz.

Permanency

Foster Care Cases	13 cases with 18 children total
Fostering Futures	2
Adoption Cases	4 children available for adoption
KinGap Cases	1
ICPC Requests	0
Resource Families in Approval Process	3
Resource Families in Re-Approval Process	0
In Home Cases (Prevention)	7

Child Welfare

Referrals Received	58 referrals/20 accepted
Family Assessments	44 Current as of 1/3/22
Investigations	22 Current as of 1/3/22

Adult Services

Guardianship Cases	91
Adult Service Cases	11
Adult Protective Services Reports	17
Adult Protective Services Reports Accepted	12
UAI Screening Referrals	13

Notes of Interest

Mr. Martz reported that In Home Cases (Prevention) is the agency's newest program. This program is where a call may not be CPS level but the family needs a little extra support. The Department has two In Home Workers that will go in and work with the family and try to keep the situation from escalating to a CPS level. Mr. Jerome questioned how the In Home Program is initiated. Miss Lawson responded that there are three different ways that In Home Services are initiated. First would be through the courts, secondly it could be a CPS case where ongoing services were requested, and finally, it can come through Prevention where the family can request these services. Mr. Martz stated that this program is voluntary, and the agency does not have the authority to make clients participate in this program unless it is court ordered. Mr. Mabe was curious if the clients ordered by the court to participate typically follow through. Mr. Martz responded that clients usually follow through when it is court ordered. Mr. Jerome questioned if Guardianship is when an adult may need someone to take care of them. Miss Lawson responded that Guardianship is when someone becomes a guardian for someone else due to their disability or age. The court requires the guardian to do a report annually. The Department sends the reports to the guardian, and once returned, the agency reviews them, then forwards them to the court.

Eligibility

Submitted by Kristen Strosnider and Desiree Minter, Benefits Program Supervisors, reflective of December 2021. Presented by Jon Martz.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Cases</u>
SNAP	117	1,981
Medicaid (F&C)	139	5,520
TANF	24	77
Child Care	11	60
Fraud Referrals	0	4
Auxiliary Grant (AG)	2	12
IV-E		

Notes of Interest

Mr. Martz informed the Board that Desiree Minter is one of the new Eligibility Supervisors. Mr. Cullers was interested in how the current numbers for Eligibility would compare to the numbers before the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Martz stated that all numbers have increased mainly because the government will not allow us to shut down Medicaid unless someone moves, passes away, or requests to have it closed.

Administration and Support

Prepared and by Renee Pearson, Administrative Office Manager, reflective of December 2021. Presented by Jon Martz.

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Phone Calls	1,813	17,358
Lobby Visits	1,129	10,972
EBT Cards Dispersed	96	1,156

Community Liaison

Prepared by Michelle Smeltzer, Community Liaison. Presented by Jon Martz.

Community Development Block Grant (Housing)

December - \$8,171.39 assisting 41 people

Ministerial Fund Spending

December spent - \$1,345.40

December received - \$375

Food Distribution

December - 19 clients served

Job Developer

New clients/referrals for the month of December: 7

Clients met/actively working with to find employment in the month of December: 5

Jobs offered/accepted: 2

Total Clients to date: 44

Thermal Shelter

Housed 28 individuals from December 11, 2021 through December 31, 2021

-22 men

-6 women

Notes of Interest

Mr. Martz informed the Board that the Department worked with the local Girl Scouts and did a toy drive for Christmas. Together they collected over 300 toys, and in the month of December, they were able to find all the toys homes for Christmas. Mr. Martz reported that on January 1, 2022, Virginia State Minimum Wage increased from \$9.50 per hour to \$11.00 per hour. Mr. Mabe suggested for the agency's Job Developer to refer clients to Chick-Fil-A since the starting pay is around \$45,000 a year.

Assistant Director's Report

Miss. Lawson reported that in the month of November, the agency hired two CPS workers. One of those workers is an Intake Worker who handles referrals for abuse and neglect. The other worker is an In Home Worker. In January, two APS/AS workers were hired. On February 1st the agency hired a Foster Care Worker, an Adoption Foster Care Recruitment Worker, and two Eligibility Program Specialists.

Director's Report

Mr. Martz stated that he would be going over the Profile Report for Fiscal Year 2021 published by the Virginia Department of Social Services. 10% of Warren County residents live below the poverty line as defined by the Federal Government, and 15% of children are living below the poverty line as defined by Federal Government. Poverty is an indicator of CPS, SNAP, and Medicaid. In Warren County, about 33% of the population need the Department's services or are one misfortune away from needing services. Unemployment increased from 2.7% in 2019 to 5.8% in 2020, which is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Warren County has 3,338 people who are uninsured under the age of 65. Mr. Martz reported that the agency is going to do an outreach program to see if the people in the County are aware of these programs. Approximately 10,643 residents in Warren County received SNAP, TANF or Medicaid benefits, which is about 25% of the population. Mrs. Wells asked what TANF was, and Mr. Martz

responded that TANF stands for "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families". A household of one adult and one child receives \$254 a month and requires 35 hours of work-related activities per week to remain qualified. In 2021, 899 children were involved in CPS calls and 186 adults were involved in APS calls. A total of \$83,552,331 in Federal, State, and local funds were spent on Social Services, and most of these funds came from Medicaid and SNAP. \$83 million came into Warren County because of Social Services, which means the locality spent \$1 million to receive \$83 million in return. Out of \$83 million, 96.4% goes directly to the clients. Mr. Martz also reported that the Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee was a major success with a turnout of 400-500 people. In April, the Department will have its annual Child Abuse Awareness Jubilee.

Old Business

Mr. Martz wanted to revisit Dr. Daley's schedule. Mr. Mabe reported that he would get with Dr. Daley and see what day of the month would work best for him. Mr. Mabe stated that he would try to have that information available for the Board at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business for discussion, Ms. Wells motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 PM. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

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