

St. Mary's County
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2016

Attendance: The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held June 28, 2016. Board Members in attendance were: Richard Buckler; Lynn Fitrell; Rose Frederick; Joan Gelrud (By phone); Annette Wood; Leisha Wood; Ella May Russell

Quorum: A quorum was established; Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Richard Buckler chose to direct the meeting.

The meeting began with the election of officers for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Richard Buckler nominated Susie Fowler to continue her position as Vice Chair. This was approved by the Board. Rose Frederick was nominated as Board Chair. This was approved by the Board.

Minutes: May 24, 2016 minutes were approved

Education Session: Jennifer Neff, Adult Services Program Specialist presented to the Board the Medical Respite Beds located at Three Oaks Center. A ribbon cutting for the program was held June 14, 2016. This program will provide medical respite to the homeless who are being released from MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and who otherwise would have nowhere to go. Baltimore County was the first in the State to implement this program, St. Mary's County the second. The Medical Respite program includes partnerships with MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Three Oaks Center, Walden Sierra, SMC DSS and Pathways. The program will provide case management to help residents with employment search, follow through with medical appointments and look for stable housing. The program also coordinates with veterans services. The residents must be able to feed and medicate themselves with assessments being done for those who cannot do so. Residents will be able to stay in the program for 30 days. SMC DSS employees Jennifer Neff and Kerry Miciotto have been asked to present the Medical Respite Program at the 2016 Maryland Rural Health Association in October.

Chair Report: Due to the absence of the Chair, there is no report at this time.

Director's Report:

The Foster Parent Appreciation dinner was held June 13, 2016 and was a huge success. Guest speaker Derek Clark presented and was enjoyed by all.

Camp Ohana will take place July 21 – 22 at Camp Maria. This two day fun filled camp is for foster children and their siblings. Volunteers from DSS along with Camp Maria staff help children with various indoor and outdoor activities.

CPS numbers are still high. Several new cases of Substance Exposed Newborn's have been reported.

We are waiting a decision from DHR regarding PIN abolishment's as to what positions we will be losing. Jeanne Schmitt's position remains vacant.

The Lexington Park office will be hosting GED classes beginning in July for a 12 week period.

Fiscal close out is taking place. DHR wants to change the way vendors are paid using Direct Voucher Procurement. There is difficulty in getting stores to accept vouchers since Kmart closed. We continue to issue gas cards to TCA recipients who are working or are activity required. The distance to Sheetz and WAWA continues to present an issue to customers as does the timeframe for those who use the STS to get to and from work and/or other activities.

The County has approved the proposed budget.

Executive Session: The Board discussed the need for recruiting new Board members with an emphasis placed on attendance. The Board stated their ability to recruit new members as well as an action plan with the possibility of running an ad in the local newspaper and /or the County website to advertise for positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

The Board does not meet in July or August.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016.