

St. Mary's County  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2016

Attendance: The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held September 27, 2016.

Board Members in attendance;

Richard Buckler, Susan Fowler, Rose Frederick, Ella Somerville, Annette Wood, Leisha Wood and Ella May Russell

Quorum: A quorum was established

Minutes: June 28, 2016 minutes were approved

Education Session: There was no education session held

Chair Report: Rose Frederick addressed the subject of meeting attendance stating that the County and DSS by-laws have established the requirements that members must meet the obligation of attending 50% of meetings. Tele-conferencing is an option for those whom are unable to attend in person due to prior commitments or travel times. This could be an alternative in order to meet board obligations but should not become standard procedure.

The by-laws are dated November 2002. Although some items are still current, it was decided that the members attending the MASSB conference would discuss this with the State with the possibility of amendments placed for St. Mary's County.

Joan Gelrud has resigned from the Board. The discussion was raised as to her replacement. It was suggested that Reverend McClanahan from First Missionary Baptist Church be contacted as he is an active member of the community and may be interested in becoming a member. It was also suggested that Carol Copenbarger of MedStar St. Mary's be contacted to as a replacement. Rose will be in contact with the County Commissioners to further understand their marketing and community outreach program. It was asked of those members with expiring dates to research those in the community who may be interested in serving on the board.

The Chair feels it is important that DSS staff and board members attend training and conferences in order to better connect with other counties. It was suggested that 2-3 staff attend the Annual Conference and that St. Mary's County submit

limited by DHR. The current Child Support Supervisor will be transferring to Charles County DSS.

The audit has concluded, we have not received any report back as of yet. Findings were of minor issues. The auditors requested a copy of our Strategic Plan, something they have not requested in previous audits.

CPS referrals remain high. The number of substance exposed newborns continues to rise. Kristi Larson will attend a future board meeting to explain in detail. There have been several recent SEN cases in which this is not the first SEN for some mothers.

There is an end of September deadline for the remaining 11 trailers at the Garrett Trailer Park. DSS has been assisting residents with relocating but affordable housing continues to be an issue. Many of the residents would like to stay. The owner does not have the funds to complete all of the required repairs.

Executive Session: There was no executive session held

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2016.