

## **Board Minutes**

**May 23, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Monday, March 27, 2006. Board members in attendance were: Monika Williams; Maureen Johnson; Clair Kollar; and Erika Patregnani. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director and Patricia Osborne, Program Specialist for Medical Assistance.

Monica Williams, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the March 27, 2006 meeting were approved.

### **Education Session**

#### **Medical Assistance**

Patricia Osborne, Program Specialist for Medical Assistance, gave an overview of programs encompassed under Medical Assistance. Ms. Osborne explained the qualifying factors for Federal Categories. In order to qualify for Medical Assistance a person must meet the qualifying factors of at least one Federal Category. Other programs under Medical Assistance include Long Term Care, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)/Specified Low-Income Beneficiary (SLMB) which are subsidies for Medicare buy-in programs.

The agency has contracts with the St. Mary's Nursing Home and the Veterans Home for a Long-Term Care caseworker. This person goes to the centers to take applications for long-term care. These contracts are beneficial to the centers in terms of timeliness and accuracy of payment from Medicare to the centers.

### **Chairperson's Report**

- Ms. Williams announced that she is resigning her seat on the Board effective June 27, 2006.

### **Director's Report**

#### **County Budget**

The County Commissioners are still in session on the budget. The County budget must be completed by May 30<sup>th</sup>. The agency is requesting to expand the STS bus schedule by matching County funds with agency funds.

#### **CHESSIE**

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The agency will be "going live" with CHESSIE on July 10<sup>th</sup>. This new child welfare system will change the way we do our work. It is a reporting system to the Federal government on child welfare that has been 10 years in the making. In order to be efficient staff need to be computer literate. The agency accessed the computer skills of all staff and implemented in-house trainings in preparation for CHESSIE. The agency is in the process of setting up a computer lab for on-going staff training.

#### **Purchase of Care Program**

The agency did outreach through advertisement of the Purchase of Care Program. This outreach resulted in an 80% increase of applications for St. Mary's County. St. Mary's and Garrett counties had the highest increase in the state.

#### Personnel

The agency lost a social worker to the County Department of Aging and is presently recruiting for this position as well as a Family Investment caseworker, Office Manger for Lexington Park and continued recruitment for a Child Protective Services supervisor. Interviews are being held for the Fiscal Clerk position in Finance.

#### Child Welfare Accountability Act

Legislators passed the Child Welfare Accountability Act which must be in place by year end.

#### Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie S. Abell