

Board Minutes

September 22, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on September 22, 2009. Board members in attendance were; Clair Kollar, Chairperson; Susie Fowler; Ronald Pope; George Ennis; Bennett Connelly; Leisha Wood; Richard Buckler; and James Farrell. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director and Mable Bailey, Human Resource Manager. Absent: Judy Gillman.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 16, 2009 meeting were approved.

Introduction of new member Leisha Wood.

Personnel Report

Human Resource Manager, Mable Bailey, discussed the implementation of furlough days and pay reduction for State employees and County and contract employees working for the State. There will also be no step or COLA for State employees. With furlough days there is expected to be a rise in comp time worked.

The agency presently has five child welfare employees in the Master's program and in placements. This requires them to be out of the agency two and one half days to one who is out four days per week.

Margaret Long, Family Investment Case Manager, retires at the end of this month with 39 years of State service.

The agency was granted an extra position for a Foster Care Case Worker.

Chairperson's Report

County Website

Not all of the Board Members names are listed on the County Website. Ms. Collar requested the County be contacted again to update the site.

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

Clair Kollar reported on a conference call with Theresa Thorn, Program Manager for Washington County Safeplace. Washington County grants and funds for the CAC are done under "The Friends of Safeplace." "The Friends of Safeplace" is a group of citizens with a particular interest in child welfare and whose purpose is to identify and pursue funding for the CAC. Safeplace is also affiliated with United Way.

Bennett Connelly suggested that Board members network within the community for names of potential people who have a keen interest in this area and establish a similar group for the local CAC as this seems to be the most successful way to raise funds. The Board could possibly have a breakfast meeting to invite these people in.

In order to receive support from United Way, the CAC would need to be a 501(c) and incorporated. This requirement could be satisfied through the Local Management Board.

Maryland Association of Social Services Boards

Ms. Kollar reminded the Board of the upcoming fall meeting. Ms. Kollar will be attending.

Director's report

Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Management Team

The prime goal of the Management Team at this time is to become accredited. The Management Team meets twice a month with the CAC partners.

October 27th the Southern Region for Alabama will do training on protocols. The CAC Team will be going to Huntsville, Alabama for this training.

There have been 25 cases seen at the CAC to date.

Budget Cuts

More budget cuts will be made. There will be a reduction in Respite Care, but the amount is unknown at this time. This program and position serves the tri-county area.

There is considerable lag time in filling vacancies due to the budget cuts.

FY2011 NPS Budget

The FY2011 NPS Budget is a bare bones budget without enough funding for travel.

Emergency Assistance and MEAP

The number of people coming into the agency for emergency assistance is up. St. Mary's County has the largest number of people participating with the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP).

Staff Retreat

Thursday, September 24th, will be the annual staff retreat day. It will be held at Dorsey Park.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be October 27, 2009