

St. Mary's County
Department of Social Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2019

The regular scheduled meeting of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, June 25th 2019 in the board room of the Joseph D. Carter building.

Member's Present:

Michael Blackwell, Chair
Richard Buckler
Katie Paul
Adam Dyson
Annette Wood
Tom Hedderich
Terry Prochnow

Also Present:

Alexis Zoss, Director

- I. Call to Order
 - Called to Order 5:30pm
- II. Establish Quorum
 - A quorum was established 5:30pm and called to order 5:30pm
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 28, 2019. Minutes are approved
- V. Directors Report
 - A presentation was held today at DSS for approximately 12 Public Health Academy students , one high school senior as well as freshman and sophomore college students from various schools. The students were given a tour of the Leonardtown DSS office guided by Supervisors and Assistant Directors in an effort to explain DSS programs and divisions. The presentation was also attended by Dr. Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. The student program is running thru August 2019. The program is voluntary in which some students will receive college credits and possibly a stipend.
 - There has been a recent customer situation which due to the severity additional safety measures have been taken to ensure the safety of staff. The person in question received a no trespass for the office and was given specific instructions on how to conduct business without coming into the office. Thank you to Tom Hedderich for assisting with providing additional safety measures.
 - The agency is currently operating without an Assistant Director for Services. Alexis has consumed overseeing the services programs during the interim.
 - The agency underwent a CFSR (Child and Family Services Review) in March. The outcome of this led to the agency reaching out to a consultant, Marsha Salus, to conduct several workshops for supervisors and staff in service engagement. The first is an Implemented Management model which included four days of training , role play and real time supervisory observation. Marsha asked for a training aid for the practice model . The agency created a 4x8 poster board for display during the training which will

eventually be placed on the floor for staff. The sessions will continue thru September. Supervisors have responded with positive feedback.

- Kerry Miciotto is retiring from the agency. A celebration on her behalf will take place tomorrow at the Lexington Park United Methodist Church. Board members are invited to the event.
- HR Update – Currently 6 Vacancies in Family Investment (5 Direct Line Workers; 1 Supervisor) Stability is improving.
- CPS is fully staffed

VI. Chair Report

- MASSB Conference coming up in the fall - \$75 registration fee - The agency provides funding for overnight accommodations. Board members are encouraged to attend to learn more about MASSB
- New Board members – Alexis will communicate with Diane Gleissner for more information – This would be the board to member capacity

VII. Other information

- Adam Dyson – Charles County Public Schools solicited for donated transportation services for their summer lunch program. Parents sign up voluntarily. Adam's company will be donating towards the cause. The school buses pick children up at designated locations, they are bused to a school for lunch and then returned home. This may be a good pitch for St. Mary's County in which the board could advocate for the program. Charles Co. has been hosting this for 8 years. Logistics – centralized to one school / location.
- August 10th – Shop w/ a Cop
- Harm Reduction Program is going well – It has become a safe place for residents to hang out. Food donations are being dropped off on Monday's; the public does not need to use the services to receive food. There are also donations of hygiene and library books.
- Carol Tolodezski retired from the agency after 47 years of employment. A picture and article were published in *The Enterprise*.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm

N. Sacks