

Board Minutes

March 22, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on March 22, 2011. Board members in attendance were: Leisha Wood, Vice Chair; Lynn Fitrell, Susie Fowler, James Farrell, Ella Somerville, George Ennis, Cynthia Brown. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director and Dawn Dent, Finance Officer. Absent: Richard Buckler, Clair Kollar.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 22, 2011 meeting were approved.

Education Session: County Budget Submission –Dawn Dent, Finance Officer

Ms. Dent presented the FY 2011 and FY 2012 budget submission for the County. The budget does not include any new items. Increases in the budget stem from changes in the fringe benefit criteria for three Child Support positions, Foster Care for Adults Caseworker, and Legal Services.

Chairperson's Report

By-Laws

The County approved the By-laws as submitted. Written notification will be sent.

Director's Reports

The Department of Human Resources still has an Interim Secretary and is recruiting for Executive Director positions for Child Support, Family Investment, Communications and Chief of Staff.

Services

Out of Home Placements: The agency has several children in placements outside of St. Mary's County in Group Homes. Children and families need to be served in the communities they live in, but St. Mary's County has no Group Homes. Group Homes are operated by providers. The requirement is for workers to visit each child at least once a month in their placements. The agency reports monthly to the Department of Human Resources (DHR) on child placements.

The community needs to build resources to do work in the community with children, family and the community.

Foster Care has been re-organized and is creating new systems to better track critical information and assure program compliance.

Child Protective Services numbers are up. In 2009 486 investigations were done compared to 617 in 2010.

Personnel

March is Social Work Month. The Social Worker of the Year for St. Mary's County is Kirstie Payne. Ms. Payne is a Child Protective Services worker who has been with the agency for six years.

National Association of Social Workers—Hilary Laskey, Team Leader for Leonardtown, will be presenting at the NASW conference on March 25th.

Lynn Chick, Resource Coordinator, will be leaving the agency to become the Supervisor for the DLLR offices in Leonardtown and Calvert. Marsha (Tidler) Scott, Contract Specialist, will be leaving to take a position at DHR as the Deputy Director for Grants. Elizabeth Donovan, Assistant Director for Family Investment and Child Support is leaving to and returning to consulting.

We are presently recruiting for the Assistant Director for Performance and Quality Assurance for Family Investment, a Child Protective Services Supervisor, and three social work positions.

The agency has three new social workers who will be going to Baltimore to complete the mandatory Competency Training which takes seven to nine weeks.

New Business

Copies of the last Annual Report were distributed to Board members in attendance with the request for information or ideas for the FY2010 report.

Ms. Wood requested an update on posters for the community about services.

Ms. Fowler announced the Early Childhood Fair to be held April 9th, 11 AM to 1 PM at Lexington Park Elementary. It will include free dental screening, immunizations, clothing give away, grocery and backpack distribution, and the agency will also be there with information on programs and services.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

The next meeting will be on March 22, 2011.