

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2012

**Attendance**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on June 26, 2012. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Cynthia Brown; James Farrell; Susie Fowler; Leisha Wood and Carol Ann Pingleton. Also present Ella May Russell, Director; Mable Bailey, Human Resource Manager. Absent: George Ennis, Lynn Fitrell and Ella Somerville.

**Minutes**

The minutes for May 22, 2012 meeting were approved.

The Education session was an overview of a visit to the agency by Secretary Dallas.

Secretary Theodore (Ted) Dallas met with key personnel of the agency on Monday, June 11, 2012. Accompanying him were two newly appointed Deputy Secretaries, Thomasina Hiers as Deputy Secretary of Programs covering Family Investment, Social Services and Child Support, and Howie Leonard, Deputy Secretary of Operations covering Personnel and Finance. His assistant, Karen Taylor, also attended.

Secretary Dallas asked if there were any ways that his office could assist St. Mary's in meeting its program obligations and maintaining good employee relations. Suggestions were to have help with recruitment funding, to bring the Child Support Training Academy back, and to look at support systems for Foster Care, i.e., no residential treatment homes in the tri-county area. Part of the agency presentation included an Ecomap of the agency and the supported agencies and community partnerships, a copy of the Annual Report for FY 2012, and a copy of an article from *The Mulberry Tree* that highlighted the experience and efforts of a St. Mary's College intern where he compared the differences of a local homeless program (W.A.R.M.) to efforts of the social support system in England based on his real life observations.

Secretary Dallas said that he would follow-up on these areas and would get back with the Director as soon as possible.

**Chairperson's Report:**

**Membership**—Mr. Buckler reported that James Farrell and George Ennis were terming out as Board Members and that two new members are needed, and would be reviewed as referred by the County.

## **Election of Chairman**

June is election of officers. Susie Fowler, Nominating Committee Chair reported the slate to be Richard Buckler as Chairman and Leisha Wood as Vice Chairman. After receiving no additional nominations, nominations were closed; a motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as nominated. No further discussion was held and a unanimous vote was made for Richard Buckler as Chairman and Leisha Wood as Vice Chairman.

## **Director's Reports**

Mrs. Russell reported that she and the Assistant Director of Services, Jeanne Schmitt, attended the Catholic University graduation in May where four employees from St. Mary's received their Masters in Social Work Degree. They, with three employees from Charles County, one from Baltimore, one from Hartford and one from Prince George counties, known as "the Tenacious 10", were recognized by the Dean as outstanding students and for the hard work that they had done.

One of the graduates, Jennifer Neff, has been working with the 3 Oaks Women's Shelter and created a playground area.

Kerry Miciotto, Tom Haina and others attended the Charles County Homeless Awareness Day to preview what our neighboring county was doing to help those who are homeless be more aware of options that are available to them. Their plan is to team with W.A.R.M. and sponsor a similar event for St. Mary's County.

Mrs. Russell reported on the great success of the Dental Day sponsored by local dentists to provide needed dental care to people who could not afford the care.

**New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on September 25, 2012.