

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2013

**Attendance**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on January 22, 2013. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Leisha Wood; Susie Fowler; Ella Somerville and Wanda Brown. Also present Ella May Russell, Director; Kerry Miciotto, Team Leader Lexington Park. Absent: Cynthia Brown, Lynn Fitrell, Carol Ann Pingleton, Pamala Emplit.

**Minutes**

The minutes for November 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

**Education Session**

Kerry Miciotto, Team Leader Lexington Park, presented information on the WARM program. WARM stands for Wrapping Arms Around Many and was created by Pastor Kenneth Walker, United Methodist Church of Lexington Park. Its' purpose is to take care of the homeless during the cold months when shelters reach their maximum. St. Mary's County WARM program differs from other counties by its close relationship between the churches, department of social services, county Human Services, and Three Oaks Center. WARM has a very active group of committees for volunteer training and recruitment, resources, and transportation. It is in its fourth season. Season I there were 14 sites committed for one week each. Season II through County funding received a van for transporting people to and from the sites. Season III 21 sites and 24 volunteers with WARM. Season IV trained all the sites and volunteers in Mental Health First Aid and participated in the first Homeless Resource Day for the County.

All potential participants in WARM are assessed by the department of social services and referred to resources, programs and Three Oaks for WARM.

**Chairperson's Report:**

**MASSB**

MASSB had a meeting Saturday in which members could call in. Leisha Wood tried to call in but could not connect.

**Director's Reports**

**Audit**

The Auditors were to come January 13, 2013, we have not heard anything to date.

### Reaccreditation

Six agencies have committed to do reaccreditation. St. Mary's County is one. We are meeting with the Secretary for funding. Maryland is one of three states with State agencies accredited by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA).

### Child Welfare

The agency requested an additional child welfare position for foster care. Department of Human Resources (DHR) asked us to develop a plan to outline how that position would be used. DHR arranged for the Annie Casey Foundation and CWLA to work with us to look at our program, practices, resources and growth in the county to better manage our caseloads. The group came the week before Christmas and reviewed case records, CHESSIE, conducted focus groups, met with staff and Master Harris and attended court. We are waiting for their feedback.

### PRIDE Training

One person serves three counties in conducting Foster Parent (PRIDE) trainings. There is a six to eight month wait for the training. St. Mary's DSS has proposed to contract with the CWLA to train staff so that we can conduct the training ourselves.

### State Review Team (SRT)

Advocates have filed a law suit based on the length of time it takes to receive a decision from the State Review Team for disability.

### Personnel

Catherin Swales will retire in March after 50 years of State service. She will be honored at the February All Staff on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

We have three social work vacancies in foster care, family services, and child protective services; and one vacancy in Finance. The expectation is to have the social work supervisor position filled by next week. The Family Investment supervisor position has been filled by a transfer from Howard County DSS.

**New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on February 26, 2013.