

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2012

**Attendance**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on November 13, 2012. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Cynthia Brown; Leisha Wood; Carol Ann Pingleton; Lynn Fitrell; Pamala Emplit; and Wanda Brown. Also present Ella May Russell, Director; Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services. Absent: Ella Somerville, Susie Fowler

**Minutes**

The minutes for September 25, 2012 meeting were approved.

**Education Session**

Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services presented an overview of the agency's Foster Care program. As of October 2012, the agency had 158 children in care. Foster Care caseworkers are caring caseloads of 26 cases each, the standard is 19. The agency has requested another position to lower the caseload carried by the workers. The agency has approximately 30 licensed foster homes. A handout was provided that detailed the number of children and their case status; challenges for staff, agency and foster parents; and strengths and strategies of the system to move children in care to timely permanence.

**Chairperson's Report:**

**Introduction of Board Member**

Mr. Buckler introduced Pamala Emplit. Ms. Emplit reported on her experience at the Maryland Association Board's annual meeting which she attended. Mr. Buckler will forward Ms. Emplit's notes from the meeting to board members.

**Director's Reports**

**Homeless Resource Day**

November 16, 2012, the first Homeless Resource Day was held for St. Mary's County. The agency along with the Community Development Corporation, WARM, other community partners put together this day with \$5000 start up funds from the Department of Human Resources. It was held at the United Methodist Church in Lexington Park across from the agency office in Lexington Park. Staff from the agency, Health Department, and 35-40 vendors were there. A report will be given at the next meeting.

**MASSB Annual Meeting**

Jennifer Neff and Kerry Miciotto attended the MASSB annual meeting and presented for the Paul Hasting Award. The presentation was *The Alternative Path: Asset Based Community Development*,

which is a program Ms. Neff uses in working with families at the Three Oaks Center. The program was awarded second place and the Board will receive a check for \$400 for the program.

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

The agency and its staff have been working very hard to improve our WPR and now have it at 56% our next goal will be 60%.

Hurricane Sandy

The agency operated two shelters from noon on Sunday until late Tuesday morning. The agency and County Government were closed.

Personnel

Dana Thron (Finance) and Carolyn Rice (Adult Services) will be retiring at the end of December.

November is Family Investment appreciation month.

**New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on January 22, 2013.