

Board Minutes

February 20, 2007

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar; Erika Patregnani; and Judy Gilman, Patrice Gaymon, and Darlene Johnson. Also present was Dawn Dent, Finance Officer and Ella May Russell, Director.

Erika Patregnani, in the absence of a Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Minutes from the January 30, 2007, meeting was approved.

Education Session

Dawn Dent, Finance Officer, presented an overview of the budget submitted to the County. Funding by the County supplements State funds for services in Adult Foster Care, Indigent Burial, Foster Care Aide, legal services, and a Child Support position. The county receives Federal reimbursement monies for the child support position—39% Federal reimbursement and 66% for administrative cost; and 100% State for the legal services.

Erica Patregnani moved the budget be accepted as presented; the motion was second by Judy Gilman and passed unanimously.

Board Member Report's

No report.

Director's Report

Secretary Brenda Walker Donald

Secretary Donald attended the Director's meeting in February. Her plan is to visit all locals by mid-March. Secretary Donald's prior experience was as a Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. She feels the State level needs to support the line staff at the local levels.

All Staff

February 15, 2007, the agency quarterly All Staff took place. The staff were briefed on CQI and accreditation. Lunch was served and staff participated in skits and memory games with door prizes.

Shelter—Leah's House

The department is working with Leah's House on the process, background checks, and will be part of a Memorandum of Understanding with them. "The Washington Post" contacted Mrs. Russell concerning the need for another women's shelter in the County with Angel's Watch and Three Oaks Women's Center to open soon. Mrs. Russell stated that the current shelters will not meet all of the needs in the County. The agency has been sheltering a mother and 3 children

ages 2, 3, and 5, for three months in a hotel because there is no housing available. Permanent housing is hard to obtain.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

The next meeting will be March 27, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie S. Abell