

## **Board Minutes**

**February 24, 2009**

### **Board Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on February 24, 2009. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar, Chairperson; Judy Gilman; Richard Buckler; Jim Farrell; Bennett Connelly; George Ennis Susie Fowler; Ronald Pope. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the November 25, 2008, meeting was approved.

### **Education Session**

No Education Session

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Clair Kolar reported on letters sent on behalf of St. Mary's County Board of Social Services to Legislators to support DHR friendly legislation. The letters were drafted by the Maryland Association of Social Services Boards, an umbrella organization that the local boards come under.

### **Director's report**

#### *Office of Human Services*

The Office of Human Services presented to the County Commissioners a plan to direct funds to local agencies to help close gaps in services. The agency will receive \$50,000 to be used as a safety net for people who cannot access State or Federal programs. The agency has seen a significant increase in the single adult population.

#### *Regionalization*

Department of Human Resources is proposing regionalization of local departments—fiscal, personnel, technology, and facilities in to regional offices that report directly to the State.

This would affect the agency's finance, human resources, information technology, contracts, procurement, and facilities units.

Four committee's were established to identify all functions of these areas in order to create efficiencies.

Western Maryland—Garrett, Alleghany, Washington counties—has been selected as the first area to regionalize.

There has been no discussion with local directors, legislators or county governments in this plan. The local DSS's play a major role in developing resources, relationships, and partnerships in the community. This will impact how services are delivered to customers as county funds fill needs State cannot.

### Program Updates

Secretary Donald has directed that local agencies cannot accept any more Adult Services cases with the exception of Adult Protective Services. DHR is gather information on Adult Services case loads and positions.

The number of children entering Foster Care has increased.

### Personnel

The agency has a Family Services Supervisor vacancy. We will be interviewing soon.

Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services, is out and will return to the agency in March.

Met with representatives from Catholic University to discuss their Master's in Social Work program. The agency has four staff presently participating in the program at the Higher Education Center. The representatives expressed that they were very impressed with the staff that we have participating.

### County Budget

Copies of the agency FY10 County Budget request were distributed. The County funds a social work position for Adult Foster Care and part of the cost of care for Adult Foster Care; a child support position, and a Foster Care Aide position that assists the social workers with transporting children and families to appointments and court.

The only difference in the FY10 request from FY09 is a 2% salary increase.

With the recession and county funding from the State unstable, the 18-65 year old population is at risk. Adult Daycare program is also at risk.

### New Business

No new business.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be March 24, 2009.