

Board Minutes

March 27, 2006

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Monday, March 27, 2006. Board members in attendance were: Monika Williams; Maureen Johnson; Melvin McClintock; Darlene Johnson. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director and Kevin Corrigan, Program Specialist for Child Support Enforcement.

Monica Williams, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

Minutes

Minutes from the October 25, 2005 and January 30, 2006 meetings were approved.

Education Session

Child Support

Kevin Corrigan, Program Specialist for Child Support Enforcement, gave an overview of the Child Support Enforcement program. Mr. Corrigan explained the processes in the areas of application for child support, locate, enforcement of existing orders, establishment of paternity, the collection tools available, disbursement timelines, criteria used for setting support payments, establishment and enforcement of health insurance for children. Child support cases are set for automatic reviews every three years. Customers have access to the agents through a call center. The call center screens the calls and answers routine questions. Agents are contacted by the call center if the requested action or information is not routine. The call center prioritizes the contacts to the agents.

The agency has eight agents with a caseload of 1100-1200 per agent. The agency carries on average 4286 per month. For Federal Fiscal Year ending October 2005, the agency collected \$10,626,437 in child support payments. The amount of child support owed \$11.3 million—some of which is not collectable due to disability or incarceration.

Chairperson's Report

̄ No report.

Director's Report

Local Management Board Interfaith Conference

The Local Management Board (LMB) of St. Mary's held an Interfaith Conference on March 9th. It was well attended with an estimate of 150 to 175 participants. Social Services presented a complex case scenario and sessions on Family Investment Programs and Child Welfare Services. Other agencies were present and presented sessions on domestic violence, school readiness, substance abuse, mental health, and housing.

Social Work Month

̄ March is Social Work Month. Secretary McCabe recognized the work of social workers, visiting each region. The Southern Maryland "Hats Off to Social Workers" celebration was held at Charles County DSS on March 24th.

Personnel

The agency has re-aligned the Foster Care Unit. Heather Henderson, will be supervising Foster Care Intake and Family Services staff and new hire, Sarah Mead, will be the supervisor for on-going Foster Care.

Resource Coordinators

The agency has entered into a contract with the county Housing Authority to hire four Resource Coordinators. These staff will work out of the Leonardtown and Lexington Park DSS offices with customers who receive Temporary Cash Assistance to help move them to employment and stable housing.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be held April 25th.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie S. Abel