

Board Minutes

19, 2005

April

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005. Board members in attendance were: Monika Williams, Chairperson; Drew Hardgrove, Vice Chairperson; Katz Springer; and Katie Danko. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director; Roberta Loker, Assistant Director for Communication and Community Initiatives; and Corrine Bankins, Family Investment Case Manager.

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

Minutes

No action taken.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. Williams established the lack of a quorum; no business was conducted.

Ms. Williams reported her and Mr. Hardgrove's pleasure in attending the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner held March 28, 2005.

All board members are encouraged to attend the Spring General Meeting, May 21, 2005, at the Department of Human Resources in Baltimore at 10 AM. Contact information is available in the MASSB newsletter.

Ms. Williams reported that she and Mr. Hardgrove met with Roberta Loker, Assistant Director for Communications and Community Initiatives and Ella May Russell, Director to discuss the direction of Board meetings starting in September. One item discussed was education sessions. The next board meeting will be a brainstorming session to determine topics for the education sessions.

Education Session

An overview of the "Coach Me Now!" partnership between St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, Department of Rehabilitative Services, and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation by Corrine Bankins, Family Investment Case Worker. This partnership was formed with a grant from the Department of Education with the purpose of curtailing people from having to go from agency to agency in seeking employment. St. Mary's County was the pilot site for the state of Maryland. As the pilot program the University of Maryland is researching what happens to people as they move through the system. The main focus of this grant is identifying barriers in the systems.

Director's Report **Personnel Update**

The agency has filled three Family Investment positions, one Child Support position, and one clerical position.

Richard Buckler, Business Manager, retired from State service on March 7th. A retirement luncheon was given in his honor on April 15th.

Roberta Loker, Assistant Director for Communications and Community Initiatives will be retiring from State service on May 1, 2005.

Nancy Wolfe, Services Intake Worker, will retire at the end of April and Nicki Sacks, Administrative Assistant will depart State service on May 6th.

Listening Post

Christopher McCabe, Secretary, Department of Human Resources, held a "Listening Post" for the Southern Maryland area—Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties. The Secretary discussed his interest in meeting with the Foster Parent Association and the Maryland Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Secretary McCabe also answered questions from the audience.

Food Stamp Review

The review has been completed but the final report has not been issued. Exit interviews with the reviewers indicated that the agency did well.

Wrap-around Services

The Local Management Board is developing a wrap-around approach to the delivery of services. This will be a team effort from all agencies that serve children or families. Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services, will be the Team Leader for representatives from each of these agencies.

Assistant Director's Report

Board Vacancies

The Board will have several vacancies in June 2005. Patsy Davidson's term will end; Ms. Davidson is not eligible for reappointment. Melvin McClintock's and Erika Patregnani's terms also end; both are eligible for reappointment and have indicated that they are willing to serve another term. Katie Danko's term expires in June and has declined reappointment. Katz Springer has resigned her board appointment effective June 2005, and Pat Johnson had previously resigned her appointment.

This leaves the Board with four vacancies.

Custom Scoop News Clippings

The Custom Scoop News Clippings, which are e-mailed to all Board members on a regular basis, are subscribed to by the Department of Human Resources and highlight news associated with department of social services within Maryland and nationwide.

Thank You

Ms. Loker took the opportunity to express her gratitude to and thank all of the Board members for the work and time they take from their busy schedules to serve on the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie S. Abell