

## **Board Minutes**

**April 28, 2009**

### **Board Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on April 28, 2009. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar, Chairperson; Richard Buckler; Bennett Connelly; George Ennis; Susie Fowler; Judy Gilman. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director and Michelle Armsworthy, Child Support Program Specialist. Absent: Jim Farrell and Ronald Pope.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the March 24, 2009, meeting was approved with correction to Ms. Kollar's name under Chairperson's report.

### **Education Session**

#### *Child Support*

Child Support is based on a Federal Fiscal Year—October to September. July 1, 2008, St. Mary's County Child Support became a demonstration site. As a demonstration site Ms. Armsworthy meets monthly with other agencies involved in child support—State's Attorneys Office, Sheriff's Office, etc. Child support workers earn a percentage of the funds collected quarterly based on the goals met. There are four goals—percent of cases paying on arrears; percent of court orders established; percentage of current collections; percentage of paternity established. The percentages for each goal are set at the Federal level and increase for each quarter. First Quarter the agency meet three out of four goals, Second Quarter, two out of four goals. The economy has made an impact on the ability to reach goals as more people become under-employed or unemployed.

August is Child Support month.

### **Chairperson's Report**

No Report

### **Director's report**

#### *Legislation Updates*

Legislation was passed that will enable foster care children to go to college for up to three years after they age out of the system.

The age of consent for adoption was raised from 10 to 14.

Differential Response—never got out of committee. This initiative would require more staffing.

Budget language on Regionalization remove.

### Regionalization

The Director's response will be sent to the Secretary by April 30<sup>th</sup>. and the Secretary will meet with the Directors the following week.

The Directors from Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's met to plan for efficiencies that could be implemented between the three counties.

### Child Advocacy Center

The Child Advocacy Center will celebrate its opening on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. Board members will be invited.

### Foster Parent Appreciation

Foster Parents will be recognized on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Crab Stadium. The parents wanted to have an event that would include the children.

### Personnel

Helen Hayden, Family Investment Worker, will retire on April 30<sup>th</sup> after 35 years of service.

### New Business

Clair Kollar requested that the agency identify some ways in which the Board could have more direct involvement with the work of the agency.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be May 26, 2009.