

## Board Minutes May 21, 2007

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Monday, May 21, 2007. Board members in attendance were: Erika Patregnani, Melvin McClintock, Clair Kollar, Judy Gilman, and James Farrell. Also present was Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services and Ella May Russell, Director.

In the absence of a quorum no business was conducted.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the February 20, 2007 and March 27, 2007, meeting were not approved due to lack of quorum.

### **Education Session**

Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services, gave an overview of Adult Foster Care and Project Home. Adult Foster Care and Project Home are programs for the protection of vulnerable adults. Most of the people within these programs are not under the care of the department. The standard for this program is competency. Two licensed professionals must declare that the person cannot make decisions in their own best interest. The placements are in family homes, not group homes, and the person becomes a part of the family. Persons placed in Adult Foster Care require a lower level of care from those placed in Project Home. Many go to work or attend Adult Medical Care programs during the day. There are presently 15-20 adults in these placements. Project Home placements are paid using SSI/SSDI benefits and supplemented by the State, Adult Foster Care is placements are paid using SSI/SSDI benefits and supplemented by the County.

Care givers must be licensed. They must show that they can provide for themselves financially, pass back ground checks, fire inspection, and attend trainings.

### **Board Member Report's**

No report.

### **Director's Report**

#### **Emergency Response**

The agency in conjunction with the County is preparing for hurricane season with practice drills. The agency is responsible for mass care in emergency situations.

#### **Women's Shelter**

The agency has signed a memorandum of understanding with Three Oaks. Three Oaks will be opening a Women's Shelter which will house approximately 20 people. They will be housed in town houses purchased by Three Oaks.

The agency is working with Leah's House and has signed a memorandum of understanding. Presently doing background checks on personnel.

#### **Medical Assistance Case Manager Contracts**

Recently signed a contract with the St. Mary's Hospital for the full funding of a full-time position at the hospital to do medical assistance applications.

Contracts were also signed with the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for a half-time person and the St. Mary's Nursing Home for 12 hours per week for a case manager to do medical assistance.

#### Local Management Board

The Local Management Board is involved in an initiative--Invitation to Negotiate--with staff at the State level. The purposes are to build positive relationships, youth development, and asset development.

#### Personnel

The agency is still under a hiring freeze. Social Work positions are exempt from the freeze, all others must have an exemption request approved by DHR central and Department of Budget and Management. We have had two position approved for exemption.

#### Budget Cuts

There will be budget cuts, Director's hope to have input in the process.

#### All Staff

May 17<sup>th</sup> the agency had an All Staff meeting. The theme was "Communication." The agency's number of customer survey response was one of the highest in the State. Excerpts from the surveys were shared with staff. The meeting was well attended and received.

#### Generous Jurors Program

The agency with the cooperation of the Circuit Court put in place the Generous Jurors Program. Jurors can donate their juror duty payment of \$15. These funds are to be used for homeless children. The first half of the year \$1100 was collected.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

The next meeting will be June 26, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie S. Abell