

## **Board Minutes**

**May 24, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2005. Board members in attendance were: Monika Williams, Chairperson; Katz Springer; Erika Patregnani; Melvin McClintock; and Katie Danko. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director.

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

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

### **Chairperson's Report**

#### **Planning Meeting**

Ms. Williams reviewed her and Mr. Hardgrove's discussion with Roberta Loker, Assistant Director for Communications and Community Initiatives, and Ella May Russell, Director, of April 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of the ideas presented by Ms. Williams to enhance the board were nomination of a secretary from a sitting board member; possible fund raising activities the board could hold to raise funds for staff appreciation gifts and a treasurer position; information on new agency/DHR programs a month prior to implementation.

Open discussion followed with suggestions from Katz Springer suggesting the Board have lunch or dinner together on a regular basis possibly bi-monthly, that the idea of fund raising be explored as there may not be a mechanism for fund raising activities; that attending and presenting at employee appreciation events would be a good board and staff interaction. Mr. McClintock expressed an interest in attending court hearings.

Information on court hearings and Citizen Review Board for Children will be provided to interested board members. All other suggestions will be reviewed at the September meeting.

#### **Departing Board Members**

Ms. Williams presented each departing board member with a token of her appreciation for their work and time with the board.

### **Education Session**

No education session was presented.

### **Director's Report**

#### **Personnel Update**

Roberta Loker, Assistant Director for Communications and Community Initiatives retired. A retirement party was held May 27<sup>th</sup>.

There are three vacant managerial positions, the Assistant Director for Family Investment and the Assistant Director for Communications and Community Initiatives and Business Manager.

The Accountant Auditor position in Finance has been vacant for many months. As it is very difficult to recruit qualified people, this position will be reclassified and filled by promoting within the agency.

John Raley, Contract Specialist, is retiring July 1, 2005. We are requesting an overlap exemption.

We are presently interviewing for one Social Work position and Nicki Sacks, Administrative Assistant, is on a modified work schedule.

#### Foster Parent Appreciation

The County Commissioners presented a proclamation to two foster care families the Sabolo's and the Wentworth's.

Christopher McCabe, Secretary, Department of Human Resources, will be presiding at a Foster Parent recognition scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM in Charles County.

#### Wrap-around Services

Training was held by the Local Management Board to implement wrap-around services delivery. Fifty staff from all agencies that serve children or families participated in the training. Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services, is the Team Leader for representatives from each of these agencies. Velea Kelley, Team Leader Leonardtown, is on loan to this program. Ms. Kelley previously did this work for four years in Michigan. Teams will comprise of staff from five to seven different departments. The cases staffed will be the most difficult and problematic. St. Mary's County is the first in the State to implement this program. This approach will build capacity in the county with the knowledge passed from worker to worker.

#### Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie S. Abell