

Board Minutes

May 27, 2008

Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on May 27, 2008. Board members in attendance were: Judy Gilman; Richard Buckler, Melvin McClintock. Also present was Bennett Connelly, Executive Director, Local Management Board of St. Mary's County.

In the absence of a quorum no business was conducted.

Education Session – Three Oaks Shelter

Lanny Lancaster, Executive Director, Three Oaks Shelter, presented a history and overview of the shelter. Three Oaks began ten year as a men's shelter with 16 beds. It's budget is from grants and donations. Through the years they have grown to include not only emergency shelter but transitional housing to sheltering women and children. The move to sheltering women and children was possible when the philosophy of the Bush Administration changed who could be served by the grant to include single men or women who are chronically homeless. Presently there are nine families (women and children) who are served by the transitional grant. The Transitional Housing grant provides two managers for short and long term housing, five case mangers—one is case advocate for children; one is parent advocate.

Three Oaks has partnerships with agencies providing services to the residents of Three Oaks including Social Services. There is an Inter-Disciplinary Team that meets bi-weekly to review case files and to plan services around those families.

A gap in services to customers is the unavailability of low-cost housing for customers who have meet their timelines under the Transitional Housing grant and must move out of the transitional housing.

Chairperson's Report

No report

Director's report

Personnel – The Assistant Director for Family Investment vacancy was filled with a candidate from with the agency. Ella Somerville was the selected candidate. Ms. Somerville has been with the agency for 32 years. She was previously the Team Leader for the Lexington Park Office. We will recruit for the Team Leader position the candidate must have a Masters degree.

There are presently 15 vacancies in the agency including the Child Support Supervisor, two child support workers and four family investment workers, legal secretary for appeals (tri-county position), Child Protective Services and Family Services Program specialist's supervisors, Administrative Aide, and Front Desk Receptionist.

Planning meeting—June 5th and 6th, the Secretary, Deputy Secretary's, and Directors will be meeting to discuss plans for next year.

DHR Budget—The DHR Budget was completed and submitted on Friday, May 23rd. It is a bare-bones budget. The agency's budget hearing is scheduled for August.

After Hours Crisis Line Contract—On May 21st, a hearing was held by Board of Public Works on the agency's contract for After Hours Crisis Line. The contract was approved as submitted.

Foster Parent Event—June 8, 2008, the DHR "1000 by 10" bus will be at the Greenwell State Park. Dignitaries from DHR and the Governor's office will be on the bus, the event is to celebrate foster care families and recruit foster parents. Invitations have been mailed to community partners.

Court Summit—Judge Bell, Office of Administrative Hearings, and Secretary Brenda Donald, Department of Human Resources, are sponsoring a Court Summit to identify issues in the court system and legal system that can be barriers to moving children to permanency. Judge Joseph Stamm and Mrs. Russell are the co-chairs for St. Mary's County. Each county will have 12 people in attendance.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be June 24, 2008.