

Board Minutes

October 28, 2008

Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on October 28, 2008. Board members in attendance were: Judy Gilman; Richard Buckler; and Clair Kollar, Chairperson. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director and Marsha Tidler, Contract Specialist. Not in attendance James Farrell.

Minutes

The minutes from the September 23, 2008, meeting was approved.

Education Session

Marsha Tidler, Contract Specialist, presented an overview of the Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (NPEP). This program works with incarcerated non-custodial parents (NCP) who have open child support cases. A Resource Coordinator will assess for education level, transferable skills, bonding issues, substance abuse and schedules services or programs as indicated by the screening process. If the NCP is a non-felon they will be paired with employers through the Community Development Corporation for job prospects and post release job services with follow-up from the Resource Coordinator for 90 days. Many NCP's leave jail with the items brought in with them and have on-going needs such as medications, mental health, drug abuse. The program has shown results of lower recidivism and increased child support compliance. The program is through a contact with the Sheriffs' Department and it is anticipated to serve 25 to 50 NCP's. The average length of incarceration is 90 days. The Resource Coordinator will begin with the agency on November 5, 2008.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Clair Kolar and Richard Buckler responded to the Maryland Association of Social Services Board's request for conference feedback.

Ms. Kolar noted that the Board's submission for the October agency newsletter did not make the edition. Timelines will be provided to Ms. Kolar for future submissions.

Director's report

Accreditation

Site visit scheduled for December 7-10. The self-study has been completed and submitted. St. Mary's is one of the last four counties to become accredited and Maryland will be the first state to undertake and complete accreditation for the Department of

Human Resources and all locals. The project was undertaken in lieu of restrictive legislation.

Customer Survey's – The agency did very well. We had the highest number of returned surveys in the State with positive feedback.

Personnel

State Cuts – The Department of Human Resources gave up 100 positions and capped Adult Services at the current level.

There is a freeze on new hires, no out of state travel money and only half of the State cars can be replaced. The 2009 budget cuts are unknown. The Human Services Council will be doing an economic and social profile of the effect of budget cuts on the county.

Child Support – We have a new Program Manager for Child Support, Michelle Armsworthy. Child support collections are up.

November is National Adoption Month; three children are to be adopted on November 18th.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be November 25, 2008.