

Board Minutes

November 25, 2008

Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on November 25, 2008. Board members in attendance were: Judy Gilman; Richard Buckler; Jim Farrell; Bennett Connelly; and Clair Kollar, Chairperson. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director.

Minutes

The minutes from the October 28, 2008, meeting was approved.

Education Session

No Education Session

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Clair Kolar participated in an MASSB conference call on November 25, 2008. The MASSB is to draft a letter in support of DHR legislation—Drug Affected Newborn and Tuition Waiver—for each local Board to sign and send to their legislators.

The Board agreed to draft a letter on up coming budget cuts if it would be helpful.

Director's report

Adoption

The three adoptions scheduled for November were done on Wednesday, November 18th.

An adoptive family from St. Mary's County was named as the Adoption Family of the Year for the State of Maryland.

Personnel

Foster Care – We have a new Foster Care Program Specialist, Maritza Juarbe and Colleen Studinarz has joined the agency at the Lexington Park Team Leader.

We presently have three Family Investment vacancies at the Department of Budget and Management waiting approval.

Program Updates

Legislation last year placed Long Term Care (LTC) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). DHR is in the process of gathering information on the

number of staff in DHR who does LTC. Statewide within DHR this will be 77 positions, DHMH wants 111. We do not have anyone at this time that does LTC. This move will probably not happen until sometime next year.

Medical Assistance LTC no longer requires a face-to-face interview to apply. With this change we no longer have a worker placed in the nursing homes. We have met with the nursing homes and at this time application will come here and we will process. Details still need to be worked out.

The agency is now doing group interviews for customers applying for food stamps and medical assistance. Food stamp applications are up more than 28%. With the increased caseloads, the group interviews will allow more time for case processing.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be January 27, 2009.