

## **Board Minutes**

**April 27, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on April 27, 2010. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar, Chairperson, Judy Gilman, Leisha Wood. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director and Elizabeth Donovan, Assistant Director for Operations and Child Support. Absent: Cynthia Brown, Richard Buckler, Susie Fowler, James Farrell, George Ennis.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the March 23, 2010 meeting were not approved due to an absence of a quorum.

**Education Session:** No Education session was held.

### **Chairperson's Report**

#### **Membership**

The board has one opening and one member who's term is up as of June 30, 2010. Ms. Kollar asked Ms. Gilman if she was interested in reappointment. Ms. Gilman stated that she would accept reappointment. Ms. Kollar requested that each board member absent be sent a packet of potential board members for their review. Ms. Kollar will send each member an e-mail requesting they send to her their top three candidates for the one vacancy. She will compile the results and e-mail Sarah Cannavo, Administrative Assistant to the County Commissioners, the names of the three choices for appointment. Mrs. Russell will contact Ms. Cannavo to request Ms. Gilman's reappointment.

### **Director's Reports**

#### **Introduction of Assistant Director for Operations and Child Support**

Mrs. Russell introduced Elizabeth Donovan, Assistant Director for Operations and Child Support. Ms. Donovan addressed the Board with an overview of her qualifications and experience. She has been with the agency for five weeks.

#### **County Funds**

The County Commissioners granted \$100,000 to the Human Service Council to grant mini-grants to those who applied for the funding. The department was granted \$50,000. This is the second time the department has received this grant. The funds are used to assist single adults or families who do not qualify for any other funding under the State and Federal guidelines. Funding for the single adult population is extremely limited and this mini-grant provides a much needed resource for this population.

## Laurel Glen Apartment Fire

The department has been working with the American Red Cross and the Housing Authority to help the twenty-four families displaced by the apartment fire at Laurel Glen. Some families have been placed in motel's temporarily, some have received housing vouchers and are looking for new housing, some of the families where staffed today.

## Personnel

One Family Investment supervisor position has been filled. Julie Misero will begin with the department tomorrow. This leaves the department with one Family Investment Supervisor still vacant. We are still waiting for permission to fill that vacancy.

Five staff are attending Catholic University Master's program. All five passed the competency test. We were the only department that had all of its staff pass.

## Legislation

Secretary Donald negotiated with legislator's and new Child Support Guidelines will be set. They are less than the original legislation requested but are higher than the past.

Child Advocacy Centers were placed in the Maryland code. This could lead to funding for them in better economic years.

A number of sex offender laws passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15  
The next meeting will be on May 25, 2010