

Board Minutes

February 23, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on February 23, 2010. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar, Chairperson, Richard Buckler, Susie Fowler, Leisha Wood, James Farrell, George Ennis, and Bennett Connelly. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director; Kerry Miciotto, Program Specialist Family Services. Absent: Judy Gilman, Bennett Connelly, and Ronald Pope.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 26, 2010 meeting were approved with corrections.

Education Session:

WARM Nights

Wrapping Arms Around Many (WARM) is an interfaith program started by Reverend Walker, Lexington Park Methodist Church. Churches in the county were recruited to host WARM for a week at each site. This program is for homeless single adults. Each site has 20 cots available. There is on average 14-18 participants. Referrals to WARM are first assessed by the department and then referred to Three Oaks for WARM if appropriate. The participants have access to the shower facilities and are then transported to the WARM sight. Transportation is provided by the County and Walden/Sierra. Participants are provided with dinner and breakfast.

All involved have viewed this program as a good experience and beneficial to both the hosts and the participants.

Ms. Miciotto is also working with students from St. Mary's College on a year long project about homelessness. The students are doing interviews and surveys of the homeless in Lexington Park. They have been going out to the places that the homeless stay—tent cities, etc.

Chairperson's Report

Local General Administration (LGA)

Ms. Kollar requested an update on LGA consolidation. Ms. Russell reported that a group of directors were developing a proposal that should be completed within the next weeks and sent to the Secretary for consideration.

Director's Reports

Social Work Month

March is Social Work Month. The Department of Human Resources requested each local nominate one work as Social Worker of the Year. Kathy Raley, Services Intake, was the

nominee from St. Mary's County. Ms. Raley and her supervisor, Hillary Laskey, will be honored at a luncheon.

Personnel

Social Work Services Intake position to be offered tomorrow to a candidate.

Interviews for the Assistant Director Family Investment have taken place and second interviews are scheduled.

All Family Investment Case Manager positions are filled and the agency has arranged for training to be given in the agency.

The retirement dinner for Ella Somerville was attended by 125-150 people and was enjoyed by all.

EA Funds

The agency requested more funds from the Department of Human Resources for Emergency Assistance. The agency was awarded \$430,000. This program serves families with children with assistance for crisis such as electric cut-off, eviction, heating oil, etc.

County Funds

The County Commissioners approved \$50,000 in funds for the agency for the second year. These funds are used for adults and/or families with needs that cannot be met through any other program the agency has.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30
The next meeting will be on April 27, 2010