

Board Minutes

January 26, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on January 26, 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; Rowena Nibert, Family Investment Case Manager. Absent: Judy Gilman and Ronald Pope

Minutes

The minutes from the November 24, 2009 meeting were approved with corrections.

Education Session:

Emergency Assistance to Families with Children

Rowena Nibert, Family Investment Case Manager, presented case scenarios she has encountered in working with customers applying for emergency assistance. Customers can present with a single need such as eviction or electric cut-off or may have multiple and complex issues. Ms. Nibert works with each customer in assisting them to resolve part or all of their need by the use of agency programs, community partners and resources, and support systems they may have. Community partners and resources include: Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP); St. Mary's County Housing Authority, food pantries, etc. Ms. Nibert answered questions from the Board members present.

Chairperson's Report

Christmas Caring

Board members contributed to sponsor a Christmas basket for a family. A family consisting of a mother and one child were assisted through the donation.

Maryland Association of Social Services Boards

There was no report at this time.

Director's Reports

Budget Cuts

The Department of Human Resources lost 35 positions. At present the agency has one position still in the Department of Budget and Management and we are not sure if it will be filled.

Travel, phone bills, electric, administrative services have been cut. The FY11 Budget will have further reductions. There is a plan to consolidate administrative services which it is anticipated will save \$2 million dollars.

Personnel

The agency filled the Accountant Auditor position in our Finance Unit.

Friday night is the retirement dinner for Ella Somerville, Assistant Director for Operations at the Holiday Inn, Solomon's Island.

Application Processing

A lawsuit has been filed against the Department of Human Resources for the untimely processing of applications. This is under court oversight and DHR has to report to the court each Friday the number of applications received for that week and how many applications have been completed from a report of new applications dating December 4, 2009.

Accreditation

Maryland DHR passed accreditation. It is the first state to have all locals accredited.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30

The next meeting will be on February 23, 2010