

Board Minutes

March 27, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on March 27, 2012. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Susie Fowler; Leisha Wood; Lynn Fitrell; Carol Ann Pingleton; George Ennis; Ella Somerville. Also present Ella May Russell, Director; Joanne McDonald, Assistant Director for Family Investment; and Mable Bailey, Human Resource Manager. Absent: James O. Farrell, Cynthia Brown,

Minutes

The minutes for February 27, 2012 meeting were approved.

Education Session: Jobs Connection Program—Joanne McDonald and Mable Bailey

The agency had a contract with the Community Development Corporation for services provided by the Jobs Connection Program to customers who are receiving Temporary Cash Assistance. A number of local departments do this work themselves and the agency has made the decision to do so. The staff providing direct customer service from the Jobs Connection Program will be folded in to the department. There will be one State position and all other will be State contract. This will put work training, Summer Youth Employment, WORKS monitoring system to account for activities all under one umbrella and result in more effective information sharing. This is part of the Program 10 and Family Investment Plan for the agency.

Chairperson's Report:

Membership—Six board members have terms ending in June 2012. A survey was taken of those present to determine who would consider reappointment. One member was unsure, four would accept reappointment and Mr. James O. Farrell is ineligible for reappointment. A letter will be sent to the County's Commission on Boards when all decisions have been made.

June is election of officers. Members asked to consider this for the May meeting.

Director's Reports:

Resource Coordinators—Resource Coordinators (RC's) along with Temporary Cash Assistance Caseworkers assess customers to determine barriers (child care and transportation are major barriers) and do a plan—based on their assessment—for job development, vocational assessment, referral for generic employment resources, need for GED, CMS, vocational, etc. The agency has two Resource Coordinators through the Housing Authority, as of July 1, 2012 we will no longer have that contract. The department will be hiring the RC's as State contract workers.

Personnel

The agency has two service positions to fill and has filled two Family Investment vacancies. Presently recruiting for Legal Secretary and Team Leader Lexington Park.

Claudette Jordon is leaving the agency for a position in child welfare in Prince George's County. Ms. Jordon would have been with the department for 11 years in May.

Ready by 21

Ready by 21 is an initiative by the Secretary for foster care children aging out. Each county submitted a detailed plan on the process for these children. St. Mary's County was acknowledged for having the best plan for partnerships in the State. Mrs. Russell was appointed as a "Thought Leader" for a committee on partnerships. This committee is tasked to help other locals to expand their partnerships. It is presently getting input from other locals.

New Business: No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM and moved into Executive Session.

The next meeting will be on April 24, 2012.