

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
Board of Directors Meeting
May 27, 2014

Attendance:

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on May 27, 2014. Board members in attendance were: Wanda Brown, Chairperson; Susie Fowler; Ella Somerville; Cynthia Brown; Pamala Emplit; Lynn Fitrell; Leisha Wood. Absent: Richard Buckler and Veda Willis.

Minutes: The minutes for the March 25, 2014 and April 22, 2014 meeting were approved.

Education Session: No education session.

Chairperson's Report:

Nomination Committee: Richard Buckler has offered to work on the Nomination Committee for the slate of officers to be voted on at the June meeting. Anyone willing to assist needs to contact Mr. Buckler.

Annual Report: A rough draft was distributed. Members discussed and gave input for changes to be made. Another draft will be e-mailed to each member for final comment and the final draft will be submitted at the June meeting for approval to be submitted to the County Commissioners.

Director's Report:

Council on Accreditation (COA): The COA was complimentary at the exit interview. The agency has not received the written report at this time. They were impressed the agency used the last COA report to implement changes. They met with Master Harris, and visited a foster home and an adoptive home, and many others outside of the agency. This is a national accreditation and is for three years.

Resource Parents: On May 20, 2014, the County Commissioners recognized Resource Parents with a proclamation. This was handled by the Tri-County Resource Parent Developer. The agency had three Resource homes with their foster and biological children present.

Adoption Day: May 22, 2014 was Adoption Day. The agency had three siblings adopted that day. The agency will not meet the adoption goal this year by one. That adoption is delayed and will take place later this year.

Personnel: The agency has filled six child welfare pins. All positions in child welfare are presently filled. There are vacancies in Family Investment (2) and two upcoming in Child Support.

New Business: Susan Fowler spoke to the board about identifying a vehicle to bring together decision makers around poverty. The focus would be to mitigate the effects of poverty. Ms. Fowler suggested the Local Management Board as a possible vehicle. Ms. Cynthia Brown, Director, Human Services, gave information on an upcoming public forum on living in poverty. She will ensure that members receive information. The Early Childhood Advocacy Council will be sponsoring it.

Membership: Pamala Emplit declined reappointment and one other member has not responded to the request for reappointment. Next year the board will have at a minimum four openings as those members cannot be reappointed. Members were encouraged to actively recruit for the openings as part of the planning process for the 2014 and 2015 Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be June 24, 2014.