

St. Mary's County  
Department of Social Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The regular scheduled meeting of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Advisory Board was held on Tuesday October 22, 2019 in the board room of the Joseph D. Carter building.

Member's Present:

Michael Blackwell, Chair  
Annette Wood  
Cynthia Brown  
Richard Buckler  
Katie Paul  
Alycia Stack

Also Present:

Alexis Zoss, Director  
Kelly Kantz  
Glenn Wood  
Anissa Davis

- I. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order 5:30pm
- II. Establish Quorum
  - a. A quorum was established 5
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a. A motion was made to accept the September 2019 minutes. Second. Minutes accepted

Director's Report

The series of practice change training seminars involving services supervisors and staff conducted by consultant Marsha Salus has completed. The training seminars allowed those who attended to be awarded Continuing Educations Unit's (CEU's). Each manager was awarded 22hrs of continuing education credits. Each individual class provided a specific number of CEU hours.

The Department of Social Services office has long been known as the department of public welfare. Once known as AFDC and now as TCA (Temporary Cash Assistance), the assistance has evolved to now be time limited benefits as well as including a required jobs program. Kelly, Glenn and Anissa are presenting to the board an overview of the jobs program which connects TCA recipients with job placement as employees or in work experience volunteer positions. This has resulted in direct hires, extended interviews, job placement and references to other partners for hiring. The program assists participants with job skills, resume building and resources on overcoming barriers to assist in leading to the path of employment. Many customers are faced with legal barriers. There continues to be support from local legal professionals in assisting customers with the expungement process. Customers in the jobs program are kept up to date on community resources and when need be are assisted with obtaining a GED. Some participants work as unpaid interns allowing them to attend interviews, gain skill development, time management skills and ultimately setting them up for success. Interns follow the same policies while on the job site as paid employees. Direct employment referrals can lead to employment or subsidized employment. An MOU was recently acquired with Recreation

and Parks. The agency supports hiring events with Abacus. The last event resulted in 62 of the 69 attendees gaining employment.

The current TCA Caseload is approximately 450.

#### **Chair Report**

- Thank you to Alycia for participating in the expungement event
- MASSB – Terry, Alycia and Michael will be attending
- Michael is hoping to connect with Chris in Calvert Co. regarding fundraising. The best practice would be to purchase a PO Box for donations. A letter has been drafted for fundraising purposes. The board is asked to share suggestions via email. It is important to include in the letter details regarding the board / 501C / the intended recipient(s) of donations.
- Board ID's –For consistency, it is required that anyone not displaying a State issued ID will need to go thru security.

#### **Other Items**

- Cynthia Brown brings to the board that Community Assistance Day will be held Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Lexington Park United Methodist Church in Lexington Park.
- WARM begins November 1<sup>st</sup> – Currently looking for volunteers
- Community Mediation Center – Funded by the State; Works with the courts and community mediators ; Available twice a week; The purpose is to try to assist with resolving disputes, ultimately resulting in lowering law costs

Call to adjourn, second, meeting adjourned at 6:11pm

N. Sacks