

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 January 28, 2020 in the board room of the Joseph D. Carter building.

Member's Present:

Michael Blackwell, Chair
Annette Wood
Cynthia Brown
Richard Buckler
Katie Paul
Tom Hedderich
Adam Dyson

Also Present:

Alexis Zoss, Director
Chris Cummings, MASSB

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

Chair Report

Chris Cummings, MASSB Foundation Chair, gave an overview of the MASSB website. She provided the board with an explanation of partner resources, community resources, calendar of events and a detailed description of what a Social Services board can provide to the community. Ms. Cummings provided a power point presentation with a strong detail of establishing fundraising events.

- Outreach Strategy – To distinguish the board from other groups; getting the community to understand who the board is;
- Social Media – Facebook, community events, raffles, brochures, etc;
- Logo, tagline and website creation
- Tips on how to keep costs low (overhead/web creation/fundraising supplies)
- Local businesses can be giving – Contact the Chamber of Commerce for a list of local businesses
- Thank donors with a formal letter matter the monetary amount
- Large donors should receive notification of where the funds were used
- Grant writing – Look for local opportunities (CSM)
- Maryland Charity Campaign – MASSB is a beneficiary
- Establish a P.O. Box
- When using PayPal/Facebook, be clear that the board is a non-profit
- Donations made by check should be deposited and MASSB notified
- There is a process for using / requesting funds
- All forms are sent by email

- Account balance should be completed monthly / Quarterly at the MASSB level
- Money is distributed to vendors

Per Michael Blackwell, Alycia's law firm has stated there is a possibility that they would agree to establish the initial PO Box;

Patuxent Partnership, Bonnie Greene, is a potential contact for gathering government contractor information;

The board will discuss what to call the group during next month's meeting; Adam volunteered to work on a logo and create a Facebook page;

Checks will be picked up and deposited locally – Leonardtown?

Fundraising letter suggestions –

Remove the third paragraph

The customer in the letter was contacted and is ok with her situation being identified

Grammatical errors are corrected

Director Report

Board Docs – Board Management System;

The county is requesting boards to participate;

Sharon Ferris will be presenting an overview to the board during February's meeting;

Nicki will take the application

Commissioner Colvin requested a presentation of the SNAP program during the commissioners meeting. The presentation was done today.

MASSB Legislative Briefing Saturday

There are a few controversial bills

Child support bills – Every four years has to align with state and federal regulations

Food Stamps – Proposed to change to SNAP

House Bill 33 – New category of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults – Severe Emotional Abuse and Stress

HB 206 – Child who presents at a homeless shelter without a guardian – Should the child be brought to the attention of DSS? May deter children from showing up – Requires DHCD to maintain a registry of shelter providers. Would the board consider reviewing the proposed letter of recommendations / concerns to be signed and sent to the appropriate Senator's office? The board agrees to sign individually.

There is a proposed bill which uses technology referring to SEN (Substance Exposed Newborn) mothers. The mother would be required to have an application on their cell phone and when contacted would be required to respond. No response would alert notifying law enforcement.

Other Items

It is proposed to move the meeting date from the fourth Tuesday of the month to either the third or first.

Motion to adjourn – 6:40pm

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

N. Sacks