

## Board Minutes February 8, 2005

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2005. Board members in attendance were: Monika Williams, Chairperson; Katz Springer; Erika Patregnani, and Drew Hardgrove, Vice Chairperson. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director; Roberta Loker, Assistant Director for Communications and Community Initiatives; Dawn Dent, Finance Officer.

Monica Williams, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the December 7, 2004, meeting were approved.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Ms Williams attended the board of MASSB Winter Meeting, Anne Arundel County, January 22, 2005. Highlights of the meeting were presentations on the Governor's budget, CHESSIE, and legislative bills submitted by the Department of Human Resources. Ms. Williams passed out copies of the legislative bills. Secretary McCabe requested support from the local boards for the Differential Response Bill.

The spring MASSB meeting will be held in Ocean City, September 29-30. Ms. Williams encouraged all Board members to attend.

### **Education Session**

Video about Three Oaks Center, the work that it does and the people it serves.

### **Director's Report**

#### **County Budget Submission**

Dawn Dent, Finance Officer, presented an overview of the Social Service County Budget FY 2006 submission. At the conclusion of the overview and discussion, Drew Hardgrove moved the budget submission be approved as presented, Erika Patregnani seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Personnel Update**

The department currently has three unfilled child welfare positions with interviews scheduled.

Ezekiel Iyanda was recently hired by the department as Program Specialist for Temporary Cash Assistance and Purchase of Care. Mr. Iyanda previously worked in Prince George County Department of Social Services, Department of Operations, Payment Accuracy Review Unit. He has extensive experience in work measurement and studies that have proven to have positive results.

Velea Kelly will be reporting to the department on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Kelly will be the Team Leader for the Leonardtown Team. Ms. Kelly has a Masters in Social Work with both public and private social work experience.

The interviews for the Assistant Director of Operations are in the final stages. An offer will be made in the near future.

**Leadership in Action**

The group's focus is to have children ready for school by the age of five. This plan will be county wide with a special focus on the Lexington Park area.

**Audit Monitoring Report**

The DHR Office of the Inspector General conducted their regularly scheduled follow up review of the corrective action plans the Department developed as a result of last year's audit. The review reported one outstanding issue—overpayments in Food Stamps and Temporary Cash Assistance. The Central Office of DHR was to send someone to help with the overpayment issue, but were delayed in providing this support. The corrective actions are now in place for this issue. All other issues were resolved and corrective action plans in place.

**Assistant Director's Report**

No report.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie S. Abell