

## **Board Minutes**

**March 24, 2009**

### **Board Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on March 24, 2009. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar, Chairperson; Richard Buckler; Jim Farrell; Bennett Connelly; George Ennis; Susie Fowler; Ronald Pope. Also present was Ella May Russell, Director and Cathy Zumbun, Assistant Director for Performance and Oversight. Absent: Judy Gilman

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the February 24, 2009, meeting was approved.

### **Education Session**

No Education Session

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Clair Kollar reported the Maryland Association of Social Services Boards (MASSB) has no formal position at this time on proposed re-structuring. The December letters to Senator Dyson and Delegate Bohanan resulted in a call from Delegate John Bohanan's office to request the bill numbers of the legislation referred to in the letters.

### **Director's report**

#### **Social Work Month**

March is Social Work Month. The agency held an All Staff meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> which highlighted social work. Alice McCreight, Family Services Case Worker, was nominated from our agency as Social Worker of the Year. Ms. McCreight has developed and managed a pilot housing program which has been very successful. She works closely with the community in developing relationships with local landlords. She will be representing the agency at a reception in Baltimore.

#### **Regionalization**

At the March Director's meeting the Secretary and two Deputy Secretary's attended. Deputy Secretary Wilbon was very clear that regionalization would happen and a plan was being put together with committees doing work. The Directors put forth that their were other models that could be looked at. The Secretary stated she had not made a decision and would look at proposals from the Directors. Secretary Donald and Rebecca Bridgett, President of the Maryland Association of Directors, will meet to discuss the concerns of the Director's.

### Program Updates

Caseloads are 50% above what they were at this time in last the last Fiscal Year—food stamps, medical assistance, service intake.

April 1, 2009, food stamp applications are expected to increase more with the new policy for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD). Work requirements and time restrictions are being lifted, which will enable ABAWD's to receive food stamps on an on-going basis until October 2010.

Food Stamp allotments will increase by 15% with a minimum allotment of \$16 for fixed income recipients.

According to a study done by Dr. Cathy Born of the University of Maryland, one third of the people now receiving food stamps have never received assistance before.

### New Business

No new business.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15

The next meeting will be April 28, 2009.