

## **Board Minutes**

**December 6, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on December 6, 2011. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; George Ennis, Ella Somerville, Cynthia Brown, James Farrell, Susie Fowler, Leisha Wood. Also present were Ella May Russell and Jennifer Neff, Family Services Case Manager, and Kerry Miciotto, Family Services Program Specialist. Absent: Lynn Fitrell and Carol Ann Pingleton.

### **Minutes**

The minutes for October 25, 2011 meeting were approved.

### **Education Session:**

The educational session was conducted by Jennifer Neff, Family Services Case Manager. Ms. Neff is in the Catholic University Masters Program. Under this program she has undertaken a special assignment working with the women and children at Three Oaks Center who are also customers of the agency. The agency as part of a contract with Three Oaks Center provides case management for customers residing at the center. Ms. Neff reported on the progress and changes that have been implemented under her assignment to working with these families.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

Mr. Buckler announced a legislative meeting for the MASSB on January 28, 2012.

Mr. Buckler requested that agency and DHR newsletters be forwarded to Board members and a calendar of events every other month. Mrs. Russell will have the newsletters forwarded and will have a calendar developed.

### **Director's Reports**

#### **Personnel**

The Foster Care Supervisor position has been filled. The new supervisor, Keshia Atlee, will begin in January 2012.

All previously vacant Child Protective Services and Foster Care Case Manager positions are filled.

Andrea Parks starts December 7<sup>th</sup> as a Family Investment Supervisor.

The agency has one vacancy in Child Support.

#### **Place Matters**

Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services, and Mrs. Russell attended an awards ceremony given by the Casey Foundation. The agency received awards for meeting goals in child placement. St. Mary's exceed the State goal for children placed in family homes.

### Maryland Charity Campaign

The Maryland Charity Campaign is on-going. The agency is at 88% of its goal at this time.

### Adoption Awareness Month

November is Adoption Awareness Month. The agency recognized Camille and Roger Register as the Adoptive Family for 2011. The family received a plaque, gift certificates and family memberships to several local businesses.

### **New Business**

Ms. Fowler announced that the Southern Maryland Tennis Association has been providing tennis instruction to students from Lexington Park Elementary twice a week. This program is to increase the diversity in tennis players, as well as build skills with the children. The program has been well run and received.

Ms. Fowler reported that the Southern Maryland Food Bank donated \$4000.00 to Lexington Park Elementary School to send home snack packs for 15 children from October through May. United Way will be expanding its program to bring in the other three Title One schools to participate also.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM moved into Executive Session.

The next meeting will be on January 24, 2012.