

Board Minutes

January 25, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on January 25, 2011. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Lynn Fitrell, Clair Kollar, Susie Fowler, Ella Somerville. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director; Robert Frere, Program Manager for Food Stamps and Purchase of Care; Captain Deadrick, Officer Lowther, LT Norris St. Mary's County Detention Center. Absent: Cynthia Brown, James Farrell, George Ennis, Leisha Wood.

Minutes

The minutes from the November 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

Education Session: Pre-Release Re-Entry Program-- Robert Frere, Program Manager for Food Stamps and Purchase of Care; Captain Deadrick, Officer Lowther, LT Norris St. Mary's County Detention Center

The Pre-Release Re-Entry Program is a partnership between the Detention Center, Social Services, Walden, Pathways, Health Department, Social Security, and Department of Motor Vehicles. Inmates scheduled for release within 120 days are interviewed and assessed for supports they may need upon re-entry into the general population. These needs include birth certificates, identification, social security cards, food stamps, Temporary Disability Assistance, medical assistance (PAC), substance abuse counseling, mental health follow-up, housing, job training, etc. The goal is to reduce recidivism by having the supports in place upon release.

Of the inmate population 60% have mental health, substance abuse or co-occurring issues. The present population runs between 220 to 230 inmates.

This program is un-funded.

Chairperson's Report

MASSB

Richard Buckler phoned in for the first MASSB meeting. The MASSB is being revived and has purpose. The meeting held an election of officer. The annual meeting date and place will be decided later.

The MASSB is looking for volunteers for the Legislative Committee and volunteers to work on the annual conference.

By-Laws

The proposed by-laws were reviewed and discussed. It was unanimously moved by those in attendance to submit to the County Attorney the by-laws as drafted. Motion by Lynn Fitrell and seconded by Susie Fowler.

Director's Reports

Results Based Accountability (RAB)

Mrs. Russell; Thomas Haina, Assistant Director for Quality Assurance Services; Elizabeth Donovan, Assistant Director for Operations, and Hilary Laskey, Team Leader Leonardtown have been attending the RAB training by Mark Friedman. The focus is on statistics and their use and relationship to determining accountability.

Service Intake

There has been a drastic increase in the number of single adults coming into the agency for assistance. Staff have been moved to support this increase. There are now three service intake workers in Lexington Park and two in Leonardtown.

Personnel

The agency has a vacant Child Protective Services Supervisory position. The number of reports are lighter, but the cases are more complicated.

Two in-house staff were selected for the Family Services Program Manager and Foster Care Program Manager positions. Alice McCreight, Family Services PM and Tammy Loewe, Foster Care PM. There are now 140 children in foster care, this is the highest number the agency has ever had. Foster Care is being reorganized—two staff now do intake, two staff do adoptions and we have changed some processes.

The agency is presently recruiting for four social work positions.

Thompson Compliance

The agency is presently at 100% for the Thompson Compliance rate. Meeting this mandate has been dependent on overtime which will end in the near future.

Performance Evaluation Program (PEP)

Department of Budget and Management notified the Department of Human Resources on December 7, 2010 that all PEP's had to be re-done in a new format and given to employees and completed by January 14, 2011. The agency met the due date.

County Budget

The County Budget submittal is due February 11, 2011. The instructions are not to ask for any increases. The agency will not request any increase except those for County employees for step and COLA increases.

Interim Secretary for DHR

Ted Dallas a former Chief of Staff for Governor O'Malley, has been appointed as Interim Secretary for DHR. Mr. Dallas was the Director of a welfare agency in Pennsylvania before he became the Chief of Staff for the Governor.

New Business

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

The next meeting will be on February 23, 2011.