

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
Board of Directors Meeting
June 19, 2013

Attendance:

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on June 19, 2013. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Susie Fowler, Wanda Brown, Pamala Emplit, and Leisha Wood. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director; Jeanne Schmitt, Assistant Director for Services. Absent: Lynn Fitrell and Ella Somerville

Minutes:

The minutes for the May 28, 2013 meeting were approved.

Education Session:

CQI—Presented by Jeanne Schmitt

The State child welfare system is reviewed at the Federal level using the CFSR. The State has modeled on the CFSR for a review of the local departments called Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). The agency will be undergoing a CQI review July 22nd to 24th. They will select cases to review and conduct interviews with families and children. The process starts with a self-assessment which includes items such as--county population, income levels, services industry, etc. The programs that will be reviewed are Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Family Services, Services Intake, and Adoptions. The CQI will cover areas such as:

- what do we do well;
- where do we need improvement;
- were CPS cases followed up timely that were screened in;
- community recognition: focus on helping those in the community with need, embraces the mission of supporting those in need;
- Preserve the family by connecting the family with what they need
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Ms. Schmitt solicited volunteers from the Board to be active interviewers during this process and requested anyone interested to e-mail her. The Board was canvassed by Ms. Schmitt on any weakness or strengths they have observed about the agency. Ms. Fowler stated that she and her staff sometimes feel as if families languish in a state of no change. These are families with complex and challenging needs that may need less directive/philosophy of intervention rather than dictatorial—adults of families seem to not be held accountable for change; children not able to function well. Ms. Brown stated that the New Horizon Camps process with the agency now seems more stringent. Other comments were made on the passion of the workers and level of things to do with the limited resources; the department is vocal to the community on what the needs are—need more Foster Parents; level of liability and care, structure and consistency of Foster Parent services to children; absence of high profile instances—intervention timely.

Chairperson's Report:

Election of Officers

The slate was presented—Wanda Brown, Chairperson; Susie Fowler, Vice Chair. Cynthia Brown moved to close the nomination, seconded by Leisha Wood. The slate was unanimously approved by the Board members in attendance.

Director's Report:

Personnel

Presently have a Family Investment Supervisor, Social Worker, and aide position vacant.

Family Investment

Work Participation Rate (WPR) is at 60% which is very good.

Services

Adoption Day to be held June 28th at the circuit court. All Board members are invited.

Audit Report

The agency has not received a draft audit report to date.

Fiscal

Fiscal is in close out to be completed by June 21, 2013.

Health Enterprise Zone

The county received a grant to develop jobs. The Community Development Corporation will work with Medstar to focus on recruiting and training community health workers for Lexington Park.

New Business:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 24, 2013.