

Board Minutes

March 23, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on March 23, 2010. Board members in attendance were: Clair Kollar, Chairperson, Richard Buckler, Susie Fowler, James Farrell, George Ennis. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director. Absent: Judy Gilman, Bennett Connelly, Leisha Wood, and Ronald Pope.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 23, 2010 meeting were approved.

Education Session: No Education session was held.

Chairperson's Report

Local General Administration (LGA)

Ms. Kollar requested an update on LGA consolidation. Ms. Russell reported that a group of directors were still in the process of developing a proposal that should be completed within the next weeks and sent to the Secretary for consideration.

Ms. Kollar requested an update on volunteer opportunities. Ms. Russell reported that supervisors had given some suggestions, but the type of specialized work makes it difficult to identify specific volunteer duties.

Director's Reports

Local General Administration (LGA) Consolidation

The paper for the Secretary will be done within the next few weeks. The budget calls for the Department of Human Services to give up 35 vacant LGA positions. DHR surveyed each local department on vacant LGA positions and requested that locals identify those that could be eliminated.

In Maryland, funds can only be removed from the Governor's budget—no monies can be added. The budget process is to debate, come to an agreement and vote as a whole. Committees vote on parts of the budget. There was a move to change the child support guidelines, but this does not look as if it will get out of the committee. The Child Support guidelines were last done in 1988. The Secretary worked very hard to get the accurate facts seen by the committee. It needs to be brought into Federal compliance with the law—there is only one more year before the State will be penalized by the Federal government.

Service Integration

The Service Integration Committee is working to start a day program for the homeless population in Lexington Park. A temporary program will begin. Volunteers and food are needed. Mental Health and substance abuse services will be needed. Next Tuesday Representative Hoyer will meet with the group at Walden's HOPE place to discuss what is needed.

Closed Session

At 6:15 PM Jim Farrell moved that the board go into closed session for discussion of pending or potential litigation under provision §10-508(a)(8). The motion was seconded by Richard Buckler. Voting members present in favor: Jim Farrell; Richard Buckler; George Ennis; Susie Fowler; Clair Kollar. Voting members opposed: None. Motion carried. Closed session ended 6:40 PM with no actions taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15
The next meeting will be on May 25, 2010