

Board Minutes

November 16, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on November 16, 2010. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Cynthia Brown, County Representative; Leisha Wood, George Ennis, Lynn Fitrell, Clair Kollar, James Farrell. Also present were Ella May Russell, Director. Absent: Susie Fowler.

Minutes

The minutes from the October 26, 2010 meeting were approved.

Education Session: There was no Education Session

Chairperson's Report

MASSB

The MASSB will be coming active again. There will be a conference soon, possibly in January, in Annapolis.

December Meeting Date

The Board will not meet in December. The next regular meeting will be in January.

By-Laws

The By-Laws presently define a quorum as five members. Mr. Buckler suggested that members consider changing the definition of quorum to 50% of membership. He requested that members come to the January meeting with suggestions on the By-Laws and any other changes that they feel are necessary.

Director's Reports

Department of Human Resources

DHR will be getting a new Secretary—unknown at this point who.

DHR Central has many vacancies due to the election.

The State plans to abolish 500 positions—DHR has already lost 800).

DHR will be meeting with Department of Budget and Management for next years budget—there will be major cuts.

DHR is currently meeting Thompson compliance rates. The rates are tracked daily and weekly, the goal is 100% in all categories. Overtime on Saturdays (Super Saturdays) continues thru December. There are staff incentives and competitions. Extensive technology will be needed to continue compliance.

Personnel

The agency has hired one new Family Investment worker and Helen Hayden is under contact for FI until the end of December.

A new process for doing Performance Evaluation Program (PEP) has been in the making for five years. The Department of Budget and Management released it last week. It has to be in place by December 1st.

Hilary Laskey, Team Leader Leonardtown, has submitted a project paper for the National Social Worker conference. It highlights the work we do with teams and Family Centered Practice.

Crisis Line Contract

The agency's Crisis Line contract will go before the Board of Public Works tomorrow. The contract is a NPS budget item. The agency provides the on-call supervisors who oversee the contract on-call workers.

Jail Release Program

To date 99 inmates are in the program. This program assists inmates in locating housing, jobs, obtaining ID's, etc. before release. The goal is to reduce recidivism. Anita Ray, Department of Human Services is overseeing the larger program.

New Business

Ms. Brown announced that the Human Service Council will hold a community forum on November 30th from 6-8 PM. This is an informal assessment tool that is mandated to be held twice a year.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 with a motion for Executive Session by Lynn Fitrell, seconded by Leisha Woods--motion carried.

The next meeting will be on January 25, 2010