

Board Minutes

September 27, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on September 27, 2011. Board members in attendance were: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Susie Fowler, James Farrell, George Ennis, Cynthia Brown. Also present were Ella May Russell and Hilary Laskey, Team Leader Leonardtown. Absent: Ella Somerville, Lynn Fitrell, Carol Ann Pingleton, Leisha Wood, George Ennis.

Minutes

In the absence of a quorum minutes were not approved.

Education Session:

The educational session was conducted by Hilary Laskey, LSCW-C, Team Leader and Program Specialist for the Foster Care Team as Part 1 of a 2 Part series on Marginalized Families.

Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Buckler determined that attendance didn't qualify to establish a quorum and dispensed with further formal action for the meeting.

Director's Reports

Hurricane Irene: SMCDSS served 3,800 customers during the first two weeks after hurricane Irene landed at St. Mary's County. The agency and coordinating agencies opened a shelter at Leonardtown High School and provided shelter to approximately 150 county residents. We have several teams set to provide initial shelter coverage and continued coverage throughout a sustained period if needed. The county provided STS buses at Chopticon High School and Great Mills High School to transport anyone who needed shelter to Leonardtown High school. The cooperative agencies have a very responsive plan and it works well. After care continued with a station being placed at the Potomac Building to help citizens with insurance issues, replacement housing, etc. That station closed on September 7, 2010.

Child Advocacy Center: The CAC will be relocated to Great Mills road directly across for the Lexington Park office in the space formerly occupied by the Community Development Corporation's JOBS Center. Renovations are currently underway; the State has agreed to take over the rent of this facility ensuring that the CAC will remain open without relying on County funds.

FY13 NPS Budget: The state has asked that the agency identify a 1% and 3% NPS Budget reduction for FY13. There will be drastic cuts; FY12 will have be cut and we have already seen a 30% reduction in EA funds and there is a deficit in TANF.

New Business

Mr. Buckler inquired if anyone were interested in attending the MASSD conference and those in attendance were unable to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 25, 2011.