

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
Board of Directors Meeting
September 24, 2013

Attendance:

The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held on September 24, 2013. Board members in attendance were: Wanda Brown, Chairperson; Richard Buckler; Susie Fowler, Vice Chair; Pamala Emplit; Lynn Fitrell; Ella Somerville; Veda Willis; and Leisha Wood. Also present Hilary Laskey, Team Leader, Leonardtown. Absent: Cynthia Brown

Minutes:

The minutes for the June 19, 2013 meeting were approved.

Education Session:

Accreditation—Presented by Hilary Laskey

Four years ago the entire State of Maryland was accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). The agency found it to be a positive experience as it helped to develop policy, improve service delivery to our customers, and keep our focus on best practice. Seven counties have committed to being re-accredited. St. Mary's is one of the seven.

The agency has begun by reviewing and renewing the agency mission, vision and guiding principles. A preliminary self-study will be submitted in November that includes a PQI plan and Strategic Plan. Looking to have the site visits in late March to early May, with a final self-study in late February 2014. The three areas of standards are—Administration & Management Standards, Service Delivery Administration Standards, Service Standards.

The agency will be conducting satisfaction surveys from our customers, foster parents, collaterals, the Board, and staff and supervisors. These will be largely completed by phone or computer.

A power point was presented which guided the Board through the website for COA accreditation that is used by the agencies.

Chairperson's Report:

Introduction of New Member

Veda Willis was welcomed by the Board. Ms. Willis is an advocate for the aged and interested in the programs offered by the agency, as well as, the well being of the community.

Director's Report:

Personnel

Presently have three service openings, one in each program area.

Family Investment

Work Participation Rate (WPR) is at 64% August.

Services

Services managers will be attending the Ready by 21 conference on October 18, 2013 in Charles County. This is the kick-off for the program.

Foster Care caseload 87 children are presently in care. The last time it was this low was September 2007 with 85.

Department of Aging contacted the agency with an offer of \$725 to help three kinship families headed by grandparents with necessities. They are considering making this a yearly contribution.

Customer Service Award

Anna Lawson, Family Investment Case Manager, was selected from our agency for the Department of Human Resources Customer Service Award. The Board requested that a proclamation be requested from the County Commissioners. The Board will show it's appreciation by a certificate for Ms. Lawson.

New Business:

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

The next meeting for November to be decided.