

St. Mary's County  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2016

Attendance: The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held October 25, 2016.

Board Members in attendance;

Wanda Brown, Richard Buckler, Susan Fowler, Rose Frederick, Annette Wood and Leisha Wood.

Also present; Cynthia Brown, Ella May Russell, Kerry Miciotto (DSS) and Sara Martin of Lexington Park United Methodist Church

Quorum: A quorum was established

Minutes: September 27, 2016 minutes were approved

Education Session:

The education session was presented by Lexington Park DSS Team Leader, Kerry Miciotto and Sara Martin of the Lexington Park United Methodist Church. Kerry and Sara presented to the Board information on the beginning of the WARM program season. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the WARM program serving the homeless from November to April (21 weeks). There are currently 40 churches participating in the WARM program with 21 host sites. WARM is funded by donation with over 1000 active volunteers. Those interested in entering the program need to first come to DSS to complete the referral process and are then referred to Three Oaks Center for an assessment. The program trains volunteers regarding policy, procedures and expectations of guests. Board members were asked to volunteer as van drivers requiring a one hour commitment per day.

Kerry and Sara spoke about the upcoming Community Resource Day which is being held Thursday November 11, 2016 at the Lexington Park United Methodist Church. On site resources will include flu shots, medical screenings, job source, DSS, the SMC Housing Authority, Three Oaks Center and many more.

Kerry spoke about the Paul Hastings Award presented at the annual MASSB conference. SMC DSS won first place the implementation of the Medical Respite program, \$1000 was awarded. Medical Respite began because of 2 stories presented to MedStar including one where the person is now doing well and thriving and the other which is deceased. St. Mary's County is the second in the State to have a medical respite program. There has been 1 success story so far.

The Board will plan on how the award money can be spent to assist the program.

Chair Report:

Rose spoke to the Board about new member applications. The board plans to increase the number of members to become more productive. There are two potential members who have submitted applications.

Director's Report:

Rebecca Jones-Gaston, Executive Director for Social Services Administration visited the local office to discuss community issues. She met with the Director as well as all Services Supervisors.

The Agency has hired a new Services Supervisor who will be based mainly in the Lexington Park office. She has an extensive work background including working at both the PG County and Ann Arundel County DSS offices.

Family Investment staff is working on screening ABAWD customers (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) who will be required to meet criteria in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits longer than 3 months. If the requirements are not met, they will not be eligible to receive SNAP for 3 years. Charles Wood, Assistant Director for Family Investment will be presenting at the next board meeting about the ABAWD process.

DSS along with many other community organizations continue to work with the owner of the Garrett Trailer Park to assist with the septic issues he is faced with. There are currently 11 occupied trailers remaining on the property. The owner does not have the funds to pay for the required repairs. DSS does not have funding to assist all of the residents. We have been working with most of the families to assist with relocating. The County has invited the Director to a meeting with community partners in November to further discuss the situation. Affordable housing continues to be an issue for residents of St. Mary's County.

Executive Session:

Wanda spoke briefly of the State's legislative process.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2016.

N. Sacks