

St. Mary's County
Department of Social Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The regular scheduled meeting of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Advisory Board was held Tuesday July 27, 2021 in the Russell Conference room located in the Joseph D. Carter building and also via teleconference.

Member's Present:

Michael Blackwell, Chair
Annette Wood
Richard Buckler
Cynthia Brown
Terry Prochnow
Alicia Stack
Adam Dyson
Tom Hedderich
Jeffrey Gibson

Also, Present:

Alexis Zoss, Director

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order 5:30pm
- II. Establish Quorum
 - a. A quorum was established
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to accept the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Second motion.
Minutes approved

Director Report

Medical Respite Program

DSS representatives recently met with Dr. Stephen Michaels at MedStar St. Mary's to discuss the program.

The program is well known for supporting the homeless who have presented at the hospital and are being discharged with no fixed address. The program was created in conjunction with DSS and Three Oaks Center in 2015. Due to the pandemic, there has been no activity at the center which has been utilized over the last 16 months as a quarantine facility. The objective of the discussion was to discuss the data from the program which supports the need. There is a very robust Medical Respite program in Baltimore City. Participants in the program are less likely to be re-hospitalized which is significant savings for the hospital while creating an overall improvement in the quality of life for the participants with the majority exiting to a permanent housing situation.

28 individuals, between 2016 – 2020, were served through the program. Many customers present with serious issues making it difficult to serve them. The program is about quality of life and our ability to improve that for the most vulnerable.

25 individuals were unable to be served. When someone cannot be discharged safely, the person will have a delayed discharge date. The reasons for this can be any of the following:

- Inability to self-medicate
- Withdrawal symptoms which cannot be accommodated
- Transportation to appointments
- Limited medical oversight
- Lack of assistance with medications

80% of participants have more than one medical diagnosis.

71% of participants were permanently housed after the medical respite program

68% of those not accepted remained unstably housed (homeless)

MedStar St. Mary's is interested in increasing the number of persons who are accepted into the Medical Respite program. Grants will be reviewed to assist with possible funding.
Dr. Michaels will support the program but will not be in charge of it.

Chair Report

Welcome new board member, Jeffery Gibson.

The Health Department has released information today regarding a major resurgence of COVID-19 cases in St. Mary's County with the recommendation that those who are around others and do not know their vaccination status wear a mask.

MASSB handouts review
Breakdown of funds available

Fundraising matching event – If we choose to participate, we have a year or so to create a proposal. Maybe do some brainstorming during next month's meeting.

MASSB Annual Meeting will take place October 29th, 9am-3pm, via Zoom

SMC Library's have received a grant in the amount of \$250k for an outreach vehicle. Hoping to do some joint outreach with DSS and the Health Department's involvement. The vehicle should be ready in approximately 15 months.

Motion to adjourn – 2nd
Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm
N. Sacks