

St. Mary's County
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2017

Attendance: The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held January 24, 2017.

Board Members in attendance: Michael Blackwell, Richard Buckler, Lynn Fitrell, Rose Frederick, Ella Somerville, Annette Wood, and Leisha Wood.
Also present: Ella May Russell, and Charles Wood (DSS)

Quorum: A quorum was established

Minutes: October 25, 2016 minutes were approved

Education Session:

The education session was presented by Assistant Director of Family Investment, Charles Wood highlighting Family Investment trends noting that there were approximately 13,000 Food stamp recipients in the County covering a total of 7,000 cases representing a reduction by 5% in St. Mary's County and 8% statewide.

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.

Chair Report:

Chair Rose Frederick welcomed new member, Michael Blackwell, Director of the St. Mary's County Libraries. Mr. Blackwell graciously accepted his welcome and highlighted some of the specialties of the local libraries that tie into services for the families who come to SMCDSS for assistance such as the Judy Center and Lunch and Learn programs.

Discussion was also held regarding expanding the Board which will require the County Attorney's approval.

Director's Report:

The County Budget is due in a week and a half and we are still working on the submission for Project Home.

The new PRIDE Trainer started and is working with Hilary Laskey and Calley Leimbach. She will have to attend a workshop and will then be able to start back with the PRIDE Training classes for potential Foster Parents.

Director Russell highlighted some of the community involvement for new member, Mr. Blackwell, including the Judy Center in the Lexington Park office where families leave their children while meeting with their caseworkers. Members from the NAACP and retired teachers

volunteer to read to children in the Lexington Park office two days a week. It is well attended and received.

We are working with the Hispanic population and families primarily out the Lexington Park office as this is where the most affordable housing is available.

We are seeing an increase in dental services for undocumented children, which is being accommodated by Health Share.

Kerry Miciotto will be presenting to the Southern Maryland Bar Association about the undocumented population.

The 3 Oaks Respite Bed program is working well.

We continue to work with the owner of a local trailer park where he was unable to keep the septic system in service and was in jeopardy of closing the trailer park. Experts in this type of fund seeking have met with the owner and are working to help get grant funding to keep this facility open as all of the residents are on extremely limited income.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

M. Bailey