

St. Mary's County  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 2017

Attendance: The regular meeting of the Board of the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services was held June 27, 2017.

Board Members in attendance: Michael Blackwell, Lynn Fitrell, Susan Fowler, Rose Frederick, Ella Somerville and Leisha Wood

Also present: Ella May Russell, Director and Alexis Zoss, Assistant Director for Quality Assurance

Quorum: A quorum was established.

Minutes: May 23, 2017 minutes were approved

Education Session:

The education session was presented by Alexis Zoss, Assistant Director for Quality Assurance. Ms. Zoss introduced herself to the board and gave a detailed description of her background working in child welfare and in the mental health field. Ms. Zoss is returning to SMC DSS where she previously was employed as the Assistant Director of Services. She worked previously in the State of California as Chief of Staff for El Dorado County Health and Human Services. Prior to this she worked for Virginia Beach, Virginia as the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with a staff of over 1,300. Ms. Zoss was asked by Chair Rose Frederick how she plans to incorporate her expertise and knowledge into her new role at SMC DSS. Ms. Zoss described the need for continued relationships with human services agencies to continue what St. Mary's County DSS is currently doing in order to continue to evaluate the current needs of the community. Ms. Zoss went on to discuss the need for mental health services and there was a brief discussion regarding the Multi-D meetings in which SMC DSS currently is involved, who attends and what type of cases are discussed. Mr. Blackwell spoke about the increase in substance abuse in St. Mary's County and how this adds to the complexity of mental health needs. Ms. Zoss is enthusiastic about her new role with DSS.

Chair Report: The Chair has no report but did want to speak briefly about the recent Foster Parent Appreciation dinner she and Michael Blackwell attended. She stated that it was a lovely time had by all and that it was nice to meet some of the foster parents. She and Mr. Blackwell agreed that the speaker, who was a product of the foster care system, was outstanding and that they were impressed by her.

Director's Report:

Stacy Haynes has filled the position of Human Resources Manager. Mrs. Haynes has an extensive HR background and was previously working for the education system.

The agency is currently in the process of accreditation of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

Markeeta Barnes has filled the position of Foster Care Supervisor.

The Child Support Supervisor position has been offered and will soon be filled.

The HR assistant position previously filled by Marsha Bauserman who has since retired, has been posted.

Camp Ohana will be held July 20 – 21<sup>st</sup> at Camp Maria. This is a camp for siblings currently in foster care giving them an opportunity to enjoy activities together.

Howard County DSS executive staff visited the Lexington Park office to view case staffings and have a question and answer session with staff.

The Secretary will be visiting all of the local DSS offices. There is no date as of yet when she will visit SMC.

There is no board meeting held in July and August.  
The next meeting will be held September 26, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.  
N. Sacks