**MRPA**

**Quarterly Meeting with DHR**

**January 30, 2015**

A required In-Person quarterly meeting of MRPA Board Members was held with DHR on Friday, January 30, 2015. The meeting took place at the DHR building, 311 Saratoga St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

Meeting Summary Notes: These minutes are a summary and not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Meeting was started by John Bertulis (MRPA Ombudsman) at 11:05 AM.

Participants:

Arnie Eby President Anita Wilkins DHR

Helen Nicholson Secretary (on call) Shirley Brown DHR (Grant Monitor)

Demetria Gregory Treasurer John Bertulis Ombudsman

Cindy Everly Accountant

Sam Macer Board Member

Arnie E. presented to DHR members information pertaining to the Grant received by MRPA. This included the balance sheet from July 1 to December 31, 2014. Line items were reviewed and discussed.

Cindy discussed how the applications for the local jurisdictions to obtain 501 ©3 status were progressing. She and Arnie presented a binder that will be a resource for each jurisdiction.

Arnie gave a status report on the Events for this year: Eastern Shore Conference, October Fall Conference and Adoption Dinner in Baltimore in November.

The annual Resource Parent Recognition Ceremony for Foster Care Month was discussed. Need to determine where the event will take place this year. DHR will check to see if it can again be held at the Governor’s House in Annapolis. If this is not going to be a possibility, we will need to find a new venue.

Arnie also discussed the MRPA Family Fun Respite Day; it was a great success and will be held again this summer at Cascade Lake.

The Plan of Work for 2015-2016 is being prepared. DHR asked for it to be submitted by April 2015 meeting. Arnie agreed to have it done.

DHR expressed positive comments about the work of MRPA

Meeting was adjourned at 11: 50 AM

Next quarterly meeting will be held in April, 2015

Minutes submitted by Helen Nicholson MRPA Secretary

**MRPA Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 30, 2015**

An In-Person Board of Directors meeting was held at the DHR building in Baltimore, MD, on January 30, 2015.

Meeting summary notes: These minutes are a summary and are not a verbatim transcript of that meeting.

Participants:

Arnie Eby Cindy Everly Accountant

Demetria Gregory John Bertulis Ombudsman

Helen Nicholson

Sam Macer

James MacAlister

Robert Huddler

Meeting was called to order by Arnie E. at 12.10 PM.

Quorum was established with 6 voting members.

Meeting minutes from December 10, 2014 were submitted by Helen N. No changes or corrections were made and minutes were approved.

Financial Report:

Arnie E. informed the members present that DHR has approved the budget.

The annual Recognition event for Foster Parents was discussed with DHR, and it was decided that if the Government House was not available for the event, we would look for another venue.

The plans for Eastern Shore Conference, November 2015 Adoption Event in Baltimore and the October Conference are continuing.

Arnie also discussed the next Plan of Work and is preparing it to present to DHR.

A discussion was held pertaining to finding other Grants that might be available to MRPA. James M. has someone who may be able write a Grant; he will try to find available Grants we could apply for. Everyone was in agreement that MRPA could use additional funding.

Accountant Report:

Cindy E. updated members on status of 501©3 filings. She is getting ready to file for Harford and Howard Counties. She is also working to get Carroll and Kent Counties reinstated.

Cindy is also moving forward with the application for Maryland Charity Campaign donation.

Conference Report:

Eastern Shore Conference will be held March 7, 2015 at Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD

Adoption Dinner in Baltimore, MD in November and October Western Shore Conference are in the planning stages.

By-Laws Committee:

A change in wording was presented by Helen N. Chair By-Laws Com.

Change will occur in Article VI: Board of Directors and Committees: Section 1. A. Members of the Board. A copy of change is included in this report and has been sent to all Board Members.

Education Committee:

Sam M. reported he held one Educational Training in Kent County and will be holding three more in other jurisdictions.

Presidents Report:

Arnie E. reported that plans to continue the Family Fun Day at Cascade Lake this summer are being made. Arnie and Robert H. will be contacting Cascade Lake owner to proceed with plans.

Ombudsman Report:

John B. informed us that the Policy for House Bill #699 still has not been released. John will send it out as soon as he gets it.

John will be retiring February 28, 2015 and he will be greatly missed. We wish all the best to him and his family.

John informed us that when candidates for the Ombudsman are interviewed MRPA members will be on the Panel. Arnie E. will be working with Anita and Debbie from DHR to determine how the position is developing.

Web Page:

It was decided that MRPA will discontinue service with current Web Page Company and will then use the services of a local Hagerstown Company to take care of our website [www.mrpa.org](http://www.mrpa.org) . This change will occur in February.

Motion to change website was made by Sam M. and seconded by James M.

Vote was called and it passed unanimously.

No further business, Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Next Meeting will be Teleconference on February 25, 2015 at 8:00PM

April meeting will be with new Secretary of Department of Health & Human Services. (Info when available)

Minutes submitted By Helen Nicholson MRPA Secretary