

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY – APRIL 22, 2015
ROOM 14 POTOMAC BUILDING * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting)

ROLL CALL – Members present were Laura Joyce – Chair, Ashely Croyle – Vice Chair, Yvonne Dawkins, Buffy Giddens, Mary Ludwig, Judge Karen Abrams, Betsy Lambert-Cooksey, Libby Blair, and Ella May Russell.

Members who did not attend and were excused were Kimberly Gregory and Kathleen Lacer.

Staff members present were Amber Hebert – Office Manager for the Department of Aging and Human Services.

OTHER ATTENDEES – Deb Gething, Jason DuBard, and Domestic Violence Coordinator Douglas Harris.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve the January 28, 2015 minutes was made by Ms. Russell and seconded by Ms. Giddens, the motion passed.

STATUS REPORTS –

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – The hospital had 7 adult and 2 child sexual assault cases since January and a lethality assessment training will be held on April 24, 2015 as well as expanding the program to Southern Maryland Hospital Center.
- Child Advocacy – Ms. Russell shared statistics from the Child Advocacy Center – for the month of March there were 17 physical abuse, 8 sexual assault, and 23 neglect cases.
- Lethality Assessment Program – The program is going well and there has been 98 assessments completed with 44 screened, 28 referred to Walden Sierra for services, and 8 refusals.
- Walden Sierra – January – March there were 40 domestic violence cases, 6 sexual assault, 33 VOCA cases, 60 anger management assessments, and 79 crisis assessments. Walden is being asked to grade reports based on high versus low danger that are given to the Maryland Network for Domestic Violence.

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

- Multidisciplinary Team – The committee continues to meet every two weeks.
- Education and Social Media – The committee has recruited one other member, looking for additional members for the committee.
- Fatality Review – Ms. Green is working on the write-up from the Fatality Review in October. Ms. Croyle is working to select another case for the upcoming review in October.

DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS –

- Flow Chart – Ms. Joyce passed around the draft flow chart created from the information gathered at the January meeting. Adjustments and corrections will be made to the document. The council discussed getting information out to the different agencies and the needs within the county such as shelter and housing for domestic violence victims. From the flow chart, the council discussed how to approach changing patterns of the offenders versus the victims. Ms. Giddens will reach out to the state police to for a representative to attend the council meetings.

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –

- Officer Nominations – Ms. Joyce is seeking officer nominations for the upcoming year and all nominations should be e-mailed to Ms. Joyce for Chair and Vice-Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- On Saturday, June 6, 2015 from noon to 6:00 p.m., the new Stoney's at Clark's Landing will be the site of the 2nd Annual Rubber Ducky Invitational Bathtub Races. If you're one of the 500+ who attended last year, you know that this is one of the wildest, wackiest traditions in racing. Souped-up bathtubs will go drain-to-drain in the waters surrounding Clark's Landing, racing for the finish line. The event features three engine categories (8 hp, 15 hp and 25 hp) and competitions in design, most sponsorships and other categories. The races benefit the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy, with proceeds going directly to providing court advocacy and legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Southern Maryland. The Center is a 501 (c) 3 and has been providing legal and related services to victims of dating and domestic violence, stalking and sexual violence for 36 years.

NEXT MEETING –

- The next meeting is July 22, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 in the Potomac Building.

ADJOURNMENT –

- The council adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.