

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY – JUNE 25, 2014**  
**ROOM 14 \* LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting)

**ROLL CALL** – Members present were Laura Joyce – Chair, Ashley Croyle – Vice-Chair, Judge Karen Abrams, Kimberly Gregory, Reverend Sherrill Page, Kathleen Lacer, Yvonne Dawkins, and Ella May Russell.

Members who did not attend and were excused were: Buffy Giddens, Bob Rezza, Libby Blair, Karen Ann Talbott, and Dr. Kathy O'Brien.

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES** – Sheriff Tim Cameron and Melissa Green.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Motion to approve the March 26, 2014 minutes was made by Ms. Page and seconded by Ms. Gregory, the motion passed.

**STATUS REPORTS** –

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – The filter is in for the DV camera and PEDS training will be offered.
- Child Advocacy – Ms. Russell shared statistics from the Child Advocacy Center – for the month of April there were 8 sexual assault cases and 6 physical assault cases referred. During the month of May there were 7 sexual assault cases and 8 physical assault cases referred.
- Lethality Assessment Program – Walden Sierra has been referring cases for the Lethality Assessment Program.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES** –

- Multidisciplinary Team – No update.
- Education and Social Media – Ms. Croyle would like to write an article for the *Southern Maryland Woman*.
- Fatality Review – No fatalities to report. Ms. Russell stated due to the number of new members, the Fatality Review Team notebook will be prepared and distributed to all members. Prior to reviews, a confidentiality statement will be required. A fatality is not required for a review; serious injuries are included under the review process. The Council will conduct a fatality review in October.

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS** –

- FVCC Community Education Video – Ms. Joyce met with Ms. Carter to go over the latest revisions to the domestic violence video.
- Victim Follow-Through – Ms. Joyce requested information from the providers on the amount of victim follow through and would like agencies to pull information together and how victims are assisted long-term. Ms. Joyce will work on a flow chart to distribute to members. Judge Abrams expressed concern with follow-through with the victims utilizing Walden Sierra’s available services.

#### **DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –**

- No new business.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- Walden Sierra hosts a Beautiful Women Support Group to help with healing the trauma of abuse every Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. at the Hope Place, Walden Behavioral Health on FDR Boulevard in Lexington Park, Maryland. Contact Traci Howell, Trauma Recovery Counselor at 301-997-1300, extension 8029 for information on joining the group.
- On Saturday, July 12, 2014 from noon to 6:00 p.m., 1st Annual Rubber Ducky Invitational Southern Maryland Bathtub Races at Fitzie's Marina when souped-up bathtubs go drain-to-drain in the waters surrounding Fitzie's, 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 35 years. For more information, please visit <http://www.smcfa.net/fundraisingdonations/rubberduckyinvitational.html>.

#### **NEXT MEETING –**

- The Council will not meet in July or August.
- The next meeting is September 24, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14.

#### **ADJOURNMENT –**

- Ms. Page made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. and Ms. Abrams seconded, the motion passed.