

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 24, 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, Judge Karen Abrams, Betsy Lenhart-Cooksey on behalf of Dr. Kathy O'Brien, Reverend Sherrill Page, Kathleen Lacer, Yvonne Dawkins, Buffy Giddens, Karen Ann Talbott, Libby Blair, and Ella May Russell.

Members who did not attend and were excused were: Ashley Croyle – Vice Chair, Kimberly Gregory, Bob Rezza, and Dr. Kathy O'Brien.

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

OTHER ATTENDEES – Kerri Frank, Jason Dubard, Faith Chase, and Melissa Green.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve the June 25, 2014 minutes was made by Ms. Abrams and seconded by Ms. Page, the motion passed.

STATUS REPORTS –

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – The hospital had six sexual assault cases in August.
- Child Advocacy – Ms. Russell shared statistics from the Child Advocacy Center – for the month of July there were 3 sexual assault cases and 3 physical assault cases referred. During the month of August there were 7 sexual assault cases and 7 physical assault cases referred.
- Lethality Assessment Program – The program is going well and victims are referred to Walden Sierra services.

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

- Multidisciplinary Team – No update.
- Education and Social Media – No update.
- Fatality Review – The Council will conduct a fatality review at the October meeting.

DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS –

- Victim Follow-Through – Ms. Joyce provided the members with a Domestic Violence Flowchart Questionnaire. Members will complete the questionnaire and Ms. Joyce will prepare a Domestic Violence Flowchart for each organization, the flowchart will be discussed at a future meeting. Members briefly discussed the process of their organization for domestic violence victims

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.
- Maryland's New Domestic Violence Laws that take effect October 1, 2014:
 - SB 333/HB307 – Peace and Protective Orders – Burden of Proof
 - SB 334/HB 309 – Family Law – Domestic Violence – Permanent Final Protective Orders
 - SB 337/HB 306 – Crimes – Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of Minor – Penalties
 - SB 369 – Peace and Protective Order – Penalties – Second or Subsequent Offenses
 - SB 434 – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Extensions
 - HB 397 – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Consent Orders Shielding

NEXT MEETING –

- The next meeting is October 29, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Russell Conference Room in the Carter Building.

ADJOURNMENT –

- Ms. Giddens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. and Ms. Lacer seconded, the motion passed.