



**St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Advisory Board**  
**A Better St. Mary's/MASSB Foundation**

Annual Report for 2020

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Advisory Board

Michael Blackwell  
Chair

Anthony Branch

Cynthia Brown

Richard Buckler

Adam Dyson

Thomas Hedderich

Margaux Keller

Terry Prochnow

Alycia Stack

Annette Wood

Alexis Zoss  
Ex Officio,  
Director, St. Mary's  
County Department  
of Social Services

Nicki Sacks,  
DSS Employee and  
Designated  
Secretary

As for all county agencies, and indeed the whole county, the COVID-19 pandemic was the primary story of 2020 for St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Advisory Board (henceforward SMDSSAB or "The Board"). In-person SMDSSAB activities were curtailed and meetings were conducted virtually. The Board's main function is to listen to and advise on St. Mary's County Department of Social Service's actions, and we were privileged to oversee the Department's heroic work mitigating homelessness, adjusting to operate virtually while maintaining a high level of service, and support the county in perhaps the most challenging time of our lives.

SMDSSAB did take some new actions:

- We set up a Facebook Page and used it to share news of the Department and county COVID preparations and responses. Thank you to new member Margaux Keller for her work.
- Increased our visibility in MASSB: The Maryland Association of Social Services Boards.
- We conducted a fundraising drive to support the Department and county residents, raising \$1,045.86. We placed a Letter to the Editor in the then *The Enterprise*. In 2021, we shall find ways to disburse this money through the MASSB Foundation and the Department.
- As part of the drive, we set up a PO Box. Thank you to Alycia Stack and the law firm of Williams, McClernan, and Stack, LLC for funding.

IN 2021, we hope to continue some fund raising, apply funds to help county residents, advise the Department on any state and local legislation, and increase visibility through for Department and The Board's activities through social media.

MASSB is a 501 c 3 nonprofit. You may find out more at <https://www.massbfoundation.org/about-us.html>. We are an all-volunteer group and 100% of any donation, which is deductible as allowed by law, would go to helping St. Mary's DSS.