

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
ADULT PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Introduction

The St. Mary's County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board (APGRB) was created through §14-401, et seq. of the Family Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to make recommendations to the Court regarding the continuation, modification or termination of public guardianship of adults with disabilities who are citizens of St. Mary's County. Guardianship is held either through the Department of Social Services or the Department of Aging & Human Services. There were as many as three (3) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Social Services and eleven (11) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Aging & Human Services for the year.

Accomplishments and Activities

Since the 2018 annual report, the APGRB has met twice (January 2019 and July 2019) to discuss the active guardianship cases. The APGRB meets twice a year to conduct a paper review of the guardianship cases and makes recommendations whether guardianship should continue, be modified or terminated.

The recommendations were forwarded to the Circuit Court and the attorney representative for the persons under public guardianship attended the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board meetings.

During the July 2019 review, the APGRB successfully reviewed all cases under the guardianship program and the Board recommended the continuation of guardianship in all cases. There has been one resignation from the Board. Teresa Bahl provided her resignation December 2019. A new member has been appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. The newest member is Dr. Joseph DeVitis.

Goals for 2020

One goal is to continue meeting semi-annually for the purpose of conducting a full paper review of the guardianship cases as presented by the Department of Social Services and the Department of Aging & Human Services. Board members will continue to offer their recommendations on all guardianship cases and will make decisions the Board thinks are in the best interest of the persons under public guardianship.

Another goal is to continue working toward and maintaining a full complement of Board members.

The Board president will request individual guardianship reports from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Aging & Human Services for each person currently under public guardianship. The reports will then be forwarded to the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Finally, the Board will hold elections for the appointment of new officers.

Membership

The membership of the APGRB is set by statute, all of whom are appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. Membership for the year 2019 is as follows:

1. Lori Jennings-Harris - Chair (Representative of a Local Commission on Aging – Department of Aging and Human Services)
2. Dr. Jennifer Willoughby - Vice Chair (Psychologist)
3. Sherry Pierce - (Registered Nurse)
4. Kathleen M. Werner - Reporting Secretary (Lawyer)
5. Dr. Rene` Grace (Physician)
6. Thomas Stokel (Person with a Physical Disability)
7. Michael Brown (Lay Individual)
8. Jennifer Neff/Meagan Ricker (Professional Representative of a Local Department - St. Mary's County Department of Social Services)
9. Teresa Bahl (Lay Individual)
10. Vacant (Professional in the Field of Disabilities)
11. Randall Ferguson (Professional Representative of a Local Non-profit Social Service Organization)

December 2019