

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 23, 2013**  
**ROOM 14 \* LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting)

**ROLL CALL** – Members present were Laura Joyce – Chair, Judge Karen Abrams, Libby Blair, Ashley Croyle (Vice-Chair), Kimberly Gregory, Buffy Giddens, Sheriff Tim Cameron, Reverend Sherrill Page, Karen Ann Talbott, and Jeanne Schmitt on behalf of Ella May Russell. Bella Wright, Judge Christy Chesser, Kathy Lacer, Lanny Lancaster, Dr. Kathy O'Brien, Bob Rezza, and Darla Hardy were excused. Staff members present were Sue Sabo – Director of Human Resources and Amber Norris – Office Manager for the Department of Aging and Human Services.

**OTHER ATTENDEES** – Iris Shedrick, Eric Nestor, Alycia Stack, Kaya Daley, Melissa Green, and Laura Webb.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Motion to approve the September 25, 2013 minutes was made by Ms. Giddens and seconded by Ms. Croyle, the motion passed.

**CASE OVERVIEW** –

- The council discussed the current domestic violence case involving John Dickens, Jr. Ms. Joyce commented on how well the network worked within the county to notify the victim of the offender's release and ensure the safety of the parties involved. The council questioned the offender's release on a lower bond for the second occurrence of the domestic violence charge. Ms. Croyle expressed concern for the need to have a separate domestic violence charge in the state of Maryland. It was decided the council will send a letter to Chief Judge Clyburn questioning the process for determining bonds and concern of bond amounts through Court Commissioners, data from domestic violence cases will be included within the last year.

**STATUS REPORTS** –

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – No updates.
- Child Advocacy – Ms. Schmitt shared statistics from the Child Advocacy Center; for the July – September quarter there were thirty-eight investigations of physical abuse and thirty of sexual abuse. The largest age ranges for the quarter were children 0-6 years old for physical abuse and 7-12 years old for sexual abuse. The Child Advocacy Center received a grant for a Victim Advocate at ten hours a week to provide assistance to the victims and families.
- Lethality Assessment Program – Ms. Croyle reported that Dave Sargent from the Maryland Network will be meeting with Walden Sierra, the Sheriff's Office, and the Maryland State Police to discuss progress updates and provide a refresher for current and newer officers within the next two months. Ms. Daley reported Walden Sierra is receiving lethality screenings; sixteen in July, sixteen in August, and thirteen in September.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES –**

- Multidisciplinary Team – No updates.
- Education and Social Media – No updates.
- Fatality Review – No fatalities to report.

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS –**

- Family Violence Video – The video will be shown at the November meeting. Ms. Sabo will draft a letter of appreciation for signature to Amy Carter for preparing the video.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- The Behavioral Health Action Team of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership will meet on October 28, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's County Health Department in Leonardtown, Maryland. More information can be found at [www.healthystmarys.com](http://www.healthystmarys.com).

**NEXT MEETING –**

- November 20, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14.

**ADJOURNMENT –**

- Ms. Giddens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. and Ms. Croyle seconded, the motion passed.