

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY – MARCH 26, 2014**  
**ROOM 14 \* LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 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, Buffy Giddens, Bob Rezza, and Ella May Russell.

Members who did not attend and were excused were: Libby Blair, Karen Ann Talbott, Darla Hardy, and Dr. Kathy O'Brien.

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES** – Jason DuBard, Betsy Cooksey, and Melissa Green.

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

**STATUS REPORTS** –

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – No update.
- Child Advocacy – Ms. Russell shared statistics from the Child Advocacy Center – for the month of January there were nineteen cases referred and nine cases referred in February.
- Lethality Assessment Program – No update.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES** –

- Multidisciplinary Team – Ms. Joyce reported they are consistently receiving requests from victims to rescind charges on the abusers.
- 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.

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS** –

- Vital Community Connectors (VCC) – The VCC met in February to bring attention to funding for non-profits as well as training opportunities.
- The legislative overview and wrap-up will be discussed at the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –**

- No new business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- Medstar St. Mary's Hospital and Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence is hosting a Domestic Violence: Strangulation training on Friday, April 4, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Health Connections Classrooms A & B in Leonardtown, Maryland.
- Walden Sierra and St. Mary's College are hosting the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® The international men's march to stop rape, sexual assault & gender violence is a project of Venture Humanity, Inc. a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation. Men literally walk one mile in women's high heeled shoes to protest sexualized violence, educate their communities and raise money for chronically underfunded rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters and other sexualized violence prevention and recovery services. The event will take place on April 6, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., this is a rain or shine event taking place at the St Mary's College of MD Track: 18952 E. Fisher Rd. in St. Mary's City, Maryland.
- 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.

**NEXT MEETING –**

- The next meeting is April 23, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14.

**ADJOURNMENT –**

- Judge Abrams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and Ms. Croyle seconded, the motion passed.