

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 20, 2013
ROOM 14 * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting)

ROLL CALL – Members present were Ashley Croyle, Vice-Chair, Judge Karen Abrams, Kimberly Gregory, Sheriff Tim Cameron, Reverend Sherrill Page, Kathleen Lacer, Lanny Lancaster, Bob Rezza, and Jeanne Schmitt on behalf of Ella May Russell.

Members who did not attend and were excused were: Laura Joyce, Chairperson; Libby Blair; Karen Ann Talbott; Buffy Giddens; Bella Wright; Judge Christy Chesser; Dr. Kathy O'Brien; and Darla Hardy.

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

OTHER ATTENDEES – Jason DuBard and Melissa Green.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve the October 23, 2013 minutes was made by Ms. Page and seconded by Judge Abrams, the motion passed.

STATUS REPORTS –

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – The hospital is in the process of revamping their SAFE program with a new coordinator, Yvonne Dawkins. Ms. Dawkins is an experienced FNE-A and is quite excited about making improvements to the program. Grant money was awarded to initiate a domestic violence education program for the hospital and community. The grant includes the purchase of an Alternative Light Source Camera to be used for the domestic violence cases for documentation of injuries.
- Child Advocacy – Ms. Schmitt shared statistics from the Child Advocacy Center – for the month of October there were fifteen cases referred; seven of physical abuse, six of sexual abuse, and two of neglect. Out of the fifteen cases, charges were filed on four of the cases.
- Lethality Assessment Program – Ms. Croyle reported from August – October, one hundred-six lethality assessments were completed. Sixty-two of those individuals were considered a high lethality probability and twenty-seven were referred to Walden Sierra.

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 January meeting, if ready.

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –

- The Council reviewed the letter to the Board of County Commissioners drafted by Ms. Joyce, corrections were recommended prior to signature. Judge Abrams met with Chief Judge Barbera to discuss concerns within the District Court Commissioner system.

NEXT MEETING –

- There will be no meeting in December; the next meeting is January 22, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14.

ADJOURNMENT –

- Judge Abrams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m. and Ms. Croyle seconded, the motion passed.