

ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
ADULT PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

**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 five (5) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Social Services and nine (19) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Aging & Human Services for the year.

**Accomplishments and Activities**

Since the 2020 annual report, the APGRB has met twice (January 2021 and July 2021) 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.

During the July 2021 review, the APGRB successfully reviewed all cases under the guardianship program and the Board recommended the continuation of guardianship in all cases. There have been no changes to the Board's membership.

**Goals for 2021**

One goal is to continue meeting semi-annually for the purpose of conducting a full review of the guardianship cases as presented by the Department of Social Services and the Department of Aging & Human Services, whether by teleconference or in-person, as allowed. 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 and encourage different members to assume the positions of chair and vice chair, if selected/elected

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 for 2023.

## **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 2021 is as follows:

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

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