

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Melissa Alexander, Chair

Angela Cochran, Vice-Chair

Amanda Meatyard, Board Liaison



**COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY:**

James R. Guy, President

Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

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**LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Board is to serve as the coordinator for the collaboration of services specific to children, youth, and families in St. Mary's County. The Board is accountable for bringing together local child-serving agencies and providers, clients of services, and other local stakeholders to set priorities and address the needs of our community.

**Activities**

A variety of human service agencies are represented on the St. Mary's County Local Management Board (LMB), along with community volunteers. During the year 2023, the LMB held 10 meetings. Board members set mentoring services as a priority in response to supporting the vastly increased community needs brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board required vendors receiving LMB funds to present at a community meeting to share data, strengths and challenges, next steps, as well as program sustainability strategies. As expected, all vendor agencies reported. Vendors shared they were still feeling the impact of ongoing problems related to COVID like funding, staffing challenges, and increased cases. The mental and emotional toll the pandemic has taken on children, youth, and families continues to be of concern of LMB members. Human service agencies continued to work diligently to adjust existing programs and establish new services to meet these needs.

In early 2022, Amanda Meatyard was hired as the Coordinator for the LMB and a new Chair and Cochair were elected, Missy Alexander and Angela Cochran respectively.

During Spring 2023, the LMB hosted a Poverty Simulation. This event was attended by 130 people from community agencies, nonprofits, and involved citizens. Enhancing poverty IQs allows providers to be more aware and build empathy towards those affected by poverty. The Board utilized additional supplemental awarded funds from the State to conduct a formal Community Needs Assessment by Human Management Associates. Per the State's expectations, an assessment should be conducted every 3-5 years to better understand the needs of the jurisdiction. This information will also assist Board members when determining program funding.

The LMB voted to allocate funds to be used to bring a Circles USA chapter to Lexington

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Park. Circles USA is a multi-generational approach to addressing poverty through intentional relationships and community partnership. This program is also supported by the SMC Department of Social Services.

The LMB remains focused on the overall well-being of local youths and families. Beyond funding programs, the LMB hosts professional development opportunities for providers, collaborates with other local agencies and Local Management Boards throughout the State, as well as advocates for services and programs supporting young children. During FY24, the Board voted to use funds to support a local grassroots nonprofit mentoring program which was awarded to Building Bridges.

### **Challenges**

The primary challenge for LMB members remained meeting increased demands at their agencies, which often interfered with their abilities to attend all Board meetings. Overall, human service agencies continued grappling with the tremendous increase in need for services along with staffing changes and growing vacancies.

### **Plans**

In 2024, the Board's primary focus will continue to identify the changing community needs within our communities brought about by the pandemic and adjusting programs and services to meet those needs. The results of the LMB's Community Needs Assessment completed in the fall of 2023 will be used for planning needs for the next fiscal year. The LMB's application to the Governor's Office for Children for funding allocation will reflect those priorities along with required data to support a coordinated strategic approach for response as a cohesive human services delivery system. The Board will continue to support new programs with implementation, data collection, and evaluation of services.

### **Membership as of December 31, 2023—**

Missy Alexander  
Michael Blackwell  
Cynthia Brown  
Anna Cotton  
Troy Cowan  
Kelly Hutter  
Marissa Kelsh  
Angela Cochran  
Tammy Loewe  
Cheryl Long  
Ashley Milcetic  
Alexis Zoss  
Celia Engel  
Annie Combs