

**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  
2024 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 fiscal year 2023, the LMB held 11 meetings. Board members set mentoring services as a priority in response to supporting the vastly increased community needs. Amanda Meatyard continues to serve as LMB Coordinator, Missy Alexander is the LMB Chair, and Angela Cochran is LMB Co-Chair.

The LMB Coordinator, with support from the SMC LMB and State representatives, drafted vendor monitoring sheets to support vendors and maintain compliancy throughout the fiscal year. The Board requires vendors receiving LMB funds to present at a community meeting to share data, strengths and challenges, next steps, as well as program sustainability strategies. Most vendors presented; however, one was not able to present. Vendors shared they were still feeling the impact of ongoing problems related to COVID like funding, staffing challenges, and increased cases. Vendors and agency representatives have observed an increased need for mental and emotional support services for children, youth, and families. This continues to be a focus for LMB members. Human service agencies continued to work diligently to adjust existing programs and establish new services to meet these needs.

Utilizing funds from FY23, the LMB was able to hire Human Management Associates (HMA) to update the Community Needs Assessment. Per the State's expectations, an assessment should be conducted every 3-5 years to better understand the needs of the jurisdiction. This data has assisted Board members in determining programing and funding.

The LMB remains focused] on overall child well-being. To that end, the Board voted to support advocacy efforts for antipoverty work, child mentoring programs, and early childhood education.

## **Challenges**

The primary challenge for LMB members remains 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 FY25, the Board's primary focus will continue to identify the changing community needs within our communities for youth and families. The results of the LMB's Community Needs Assessment completed in the fall of 2023 will be used for planning needs for the upcoming 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, 2024—**

Missy Alexander, Chair

Angela Cochran, Co-Chair

Michael Blackwell

Cynthia Brown

Annie Combs

Troy Cowan

Celia Engel

William Hill

Kelly Hutter

Tammy Loewe

Cheryl Long

Lori Werrell

Alexis Zoss