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## **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

### *2024 ANNUAL REPORT*

#### **Purpose**

Since 1963, the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission (HRC) has been empowered to promote understanding and harmony of relationships between the people of the county and to use its influence and persuasion to direct the community's efforts to the solution of problems that cause racial and other tensions stemming from acts of discrimination within the county.

#### **Activities**

The HRC continued their support of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast held at St. Mary's College of Maryland by contributing to planning meetings for the concert, the day of service, and public relations assistance.

The HRC continued to seek ways to increase its visibility in the community through outreach and social media. Their Facebook page, which was initiated in 2021, continued to be an effective way to convey the mission and activities of the HRC, as well as show support for other community events and organizations committed to the ideals of civil rights and equity.

The HRC supported the Circles St. Mary's project by sponsoring one of their evening events in June. Circles St. Mary's is a poverty alleviation program which assigns mentors to individuals and families to provide practical ways to move beyond conditions related to poverty. The HRC provided dinner to support their June session.

The HRC partnered with and participated in the first Volunteerism Day at St. Mary's College. On this day, non-profit organizations came together to highlight their work, recruit volunteers, and fellowship with other organizations. The event, which took place in September, will continue as an annual event.

### **Challenges**

Membership vacancies and meeting attendance remained an ongoing concern in 2024. As in previous years, several members' work hours changed, and they couldn't attend meetings. As a result, commission business could often not be conducted due to a lack of a quorum. This appears to be a continuous concern, and the membership is considering changing the meeting day, time and frequency to accommodate current members' schedules and provide the opportunity for meaningful meetings.

### **Plans**

HRC members continue to discuss ways to serve the community better and promote the importance of positive relationships among all people. Members plan to observe the direction provided by the State regarding human relations matters and research best practices from other jurisdictions. They also hope to partner with other human service organizations to convene public conversations regarding human relations and conflict resolution. Additionally, the members plan to communicate with the Commissioners on a more frequent basis about different community issues and to provide guidance on how to address these different issues.

### **Membership as of December 31, 2024**

Adrianne Dillahunt  
Joanna Colvin  
Max Levasseur  
Sean Wickers  
Pastor Chris McCombs  
Magistrate Kevin Hill  
Kelsey Bush  
Steve Hall