

2025 Annual Report

St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission

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.

Activities

In 2025, the HRC continued its efforts to strengthen relationships among human service stakeholders and increase community engagement throughout St. Mary's County.

The HRC convened representatives from human service commissions and local organizations for a roundtable discussion focused on organizational missions, current needs, and opportunities for alignment. This collaborative discussion laid the groundwork for future cross-agency partnerships and highlighted opportunities for improving service coordination throughout the county.

The HRC supported the Volunteer Fair hosted by St. Mary's College of Maryland. The event brought together over 20 organizations from across the region to interact with students and community members, showcase volunteer opportunities, and broaden awareness of the nonprofit landscape in St. Mary's County.

Additionally, the HRC continued its support of the Circles initiative in Lexington Park, which works to build community connections and reduce generational poverty. The Commission provided ongoing support to the initiative and maintained direct engagement with partner organizations participating in the Circles model.

Challenges

Membership vacancies and meeting attendance continued to present challenges in 2025. Several members experienced changes in employment schedules or personal commitments, resulting in reduced attendance. As a result, the commission struggled at times to meet quorum requirements, limiting its ability to conduct official business or advance planned initiatives.

Plans

Commission members continue to explore ways to better serve the community and promote the importance of positive relationships among all people. In 2026, the HRC plans to:

- Seek continued collaboration with other human service entities and explore opportunities for coordinated programming.
- Convene additional public conversations to address human relations, conflict resolution, and community needs.
- Monitor direction and guidance from the State regarding human relations matters.
- Research best practices from other jurisdictions to inform future initiatives.
- Communicate more frequently with the County Commissioners regarding emerging community issues and ways to address them.

Membership as of December 31, 2025

Kelsey Bush
Adrienne Mathis Dillahunt
Joanna Colvin
Max Levasseur
Sean Wickers
Renee Thomas
Dr. Michael English
Dornita Brown
Norma Pipkin