

In 2016 our local agency hosted and staffed the annual Camp Ohana for the children placed into foster care. The overnight camp included activities, movies, and swimming for all participants.



St. Mary's Social Services also hosted the annual staff retreat day at Camp Maria. Staff were treated to a day of motivational speakers, individual activities, team building activities and a rejuvenation period.



St. Mary's County Department of Social Services



Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2016

EMPOWER AND PROTECT



From The Director



It is my pleasure to present for your review our Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report. I am pleased to share some of the agency accomplishments and to highlight our successes and program outcomes.

The past year has been full of exciting changes for the delivery of human services. In the late fall of 2015, the Lexington Park office expansion was completed, creating 11 new interview rooms, a large meeting space and a smaller conference room. This will greatly enhance our ability to serve customers in this office. We continue to provide quality human services to the citizens in our community. In June of 2016, in collaboration with two community partners, Three Oaks Center and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, a facility to provide medical respite beds for the homeless had its ribbon cutting and we look forward to on-going cooperation to serve some of our most vulnerable citizens. This is only the second of its kind in Maryland. Our achievement in performance outcomes directly reflects this and is due to the hard work and commitment of our staff and community partners who share our vision and mission

As we move forward, I am confident the agency will continue to meet the challenge to provide opportunities and resources so that citizens of St. Mary's County can reside in healthy communities where individuals and families are safe and thriving.

-Ella May Russell

St. Mary's County DSS Advisory Board

Rose Frederick, Chair
Wanda Brown
Cynthia Brown
Richard Buckler
Lynn Fitrell
Susie Fowler
Michael Blackwell
Ella Somerville
Annette Wood
Leisha Wood

Leonardtown Location
23110 Leonard Hall Drive
Leonardtown, Maryland
20650
Phone (240) 895-7000
Fax (240) 895-7099

Lexington Park Location
21775 Great Mills Road
Lexington Park, Maryland
20653
Phone (240) 895-7000
Fax (240) 725-5725

Email: angela.sacks@maryland.gov

Governor Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford
Sam Maholtra- Former Secretary
Gregory James – Acting Secretary

- ◆ Expungement Day, in collaboration with Legal Aid, resulted in a total of 26 expungements filed to assist customers in employment searching
- ◆ Continued collaborative effort with MEAP resulting in 2354 customers signing up for assistance through co-location efforts in both office locations
- ◆ Job placements were at 106% for the year
- ◆ One student in the ASSET class completed two IT certifications and gained a position as liaison for a medical imaging company with a very comfortable salary. The class where the IT certifications were earned is a highly selective one to get into.
- ◆ Earned the Golden Fork award for Family Investment
- ◆ Earned Bronze Plate award and the Executive Director's Most Improved award
- ◆ St. Mary's County was the only jurisdiction to achieve the annual goals in all four Child Support measures
- ◆ This year, the Department began an initiative with Three Oaks and Medstar St. Mary's Hospital to organize medical respite beds for the homeless. This program is the second of its kind in the State of Maryland. On June 14, 2016, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to open this program. This program offers coordinated case management services for homeless persons ready for discharge from the hospital that otherwise would not have a place to discharge to recuperate from an acute illness or injury. The program offers six 24 hour medical respite beds for the homeless and is located at Three Oaks Center. Case management services are provided by staff from the Department of Social Services, Three Oaks Center and Medstar St. Mary's Hospital to insure adequate planning with individuals on their road to recuperation and to assist them in meeting their medical and housing needs.

Mission

The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, in conjunction with our community partners, is dedicated to empowering and protecting individuals and families as they seek stability and self-sufficiency.

Vision

We envision a St. Mary's County of healthy communities in which individuals and families are safe and thriving.

Guiding Principles

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY - essential to the creation and maintenance of trusting and productive relationships.

COMMUNICATION - essential for open and continuous sharing of knowledge, the work we do, and the results we achieve.

TEAMING - an interdisciplinary way of doing business based on knowledge sharing, mutual ownership and collaborative decision-making.

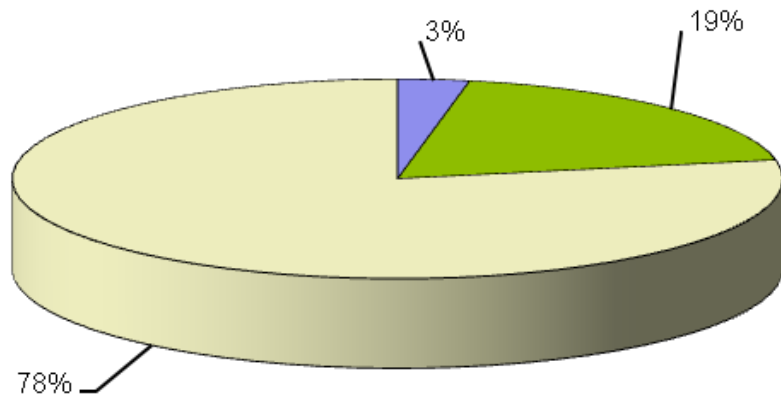
RESPECT - as a positive behavior we display and promote in our interactions with others.

EXCELLENCE - essential as the standard against which we measure ourselves.

EMPOWERMENT - as the outcome of a process that develops skills, provides support and creates opportunities for self-improvement and self-sufficiency

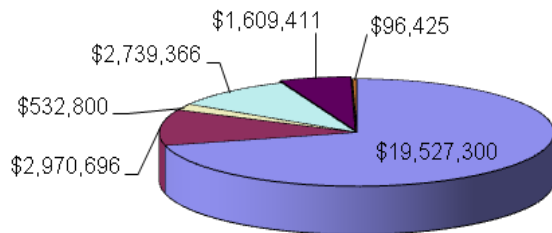
Financial Information

Operating Costs



■ Administration
 ■ Salaries
 ■ Direct Assistance

State Expenditures



■ Food Stamps
 ■ TCA
 ■ TDAP
■ Foster Care
 ■ Adoption Subsidies
 ■ Adult Services

Accomplishments

- ◆ Participated in the leadership, planning and implementation of the WARM program for the 7th year. WARM is a faith based community with congregations coming together to provide shelter during the winter months for those for whom there is no traditional shelter space. Assisted 85 homeless men/women with a total of 2,792 bed nights (20-25 nightly participants) through the season (Nov 1 - March 30).
- ◆ Participated in the 4th Annual Community Assistance (formerly Homeless Resource) Day on Nov 6, 2015. Over 200 attended and over 30 applications were made for Job Source; over 200 packed lunches were distributed - 7 ASSET students participated in the day including one through NCP and another obtained a WEX position from a community partner.
- ◆ Lexington Park office - Phase 2 of the expansion was completed mid-November 2015, expanding the number of interview rooms from 5 to 14.
- ◆ St. Mary's Reads Program: a program developed through community collaboration with St. Mary's County NAACP, St. Mary's County Library, Southern Maryland Youth Ministries and the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services. It is designed to encourage children to develop an interest, habit and desire for reading. It is also designed to mentor parents in reading to their children. Volunteers read to children and parents in the Lexington Park office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30-4:00 pm. During 7/2015-6/2016, volunteers read to a total of 578 children.
- ◆ Second annual Foster Sibling Camp in conjunction with Camp Maria held July 16-17 at Camp Maria - much fun was had by all.

Homeless Services

39 families were provided shelter services
 \$106,502 distributed for Emergency Shelter services (Includes all funds)
 379 families received rental assistance
 \$501,847 for rental assistance (includes all funds for rental, mortgage and security deposit)
 207 families were provided utility assistance
 \$192,998 for utility assistance (includes all funds)

Family Investment

Assisted monthly an average of 496 Temporary Cash Assistance cases
 Assisted monthly an average of 1,425 TCA recipients (414 adults/1,011 children)
 49 Full-time Job Placements \$10 and up (exceeded state goal by 145%)
 318 Job Placements (exceeded state goal by 22%)
 99.4% Expedited & Regular Food Stamp Applications processed timely
 99.6% TCA Applications processed timely
 Assisted monthly an average of 1,867 Medical Assistance cases, down from 6,033 in FY 2015
 Assisted monthly an average of 259 Long-Term Care cases
 Assisted monthly an average of 14,051 Food Stamps recipients
 Assisted monthly an average of 7,142 Food Stamp cases
 Average of 470 applications for Food Stamps per month
 Assisted monthly an average of 270 TDAP participants (58 short-term/212 long-term)

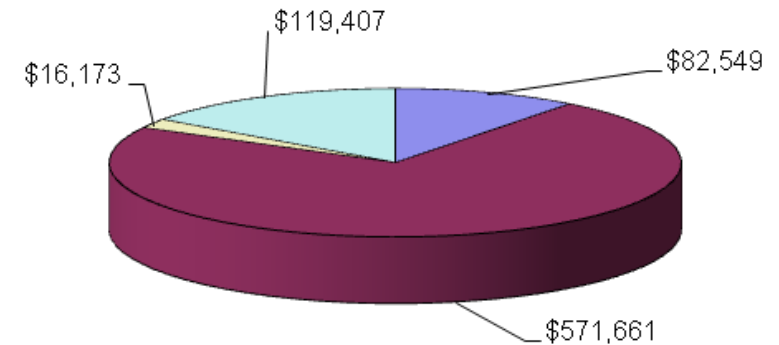
Child Support

100.47% Paternity Establishment
 85.88% of cases with Support Orders Established
 65.61% Child Support Collected
 66.83% Collections on Arrears
 \$12,867,074 Child Support Disbursed

Administration

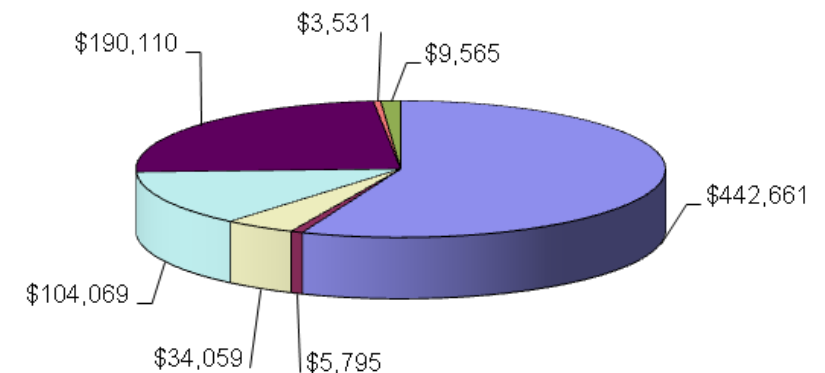
126 Positions (106 Merit, 3 P/T merit, 9 Contractual, 3 P/T contractual;
 2 County F/T; 3 F/T MHC employees)
 28.4% Vacancy Rate (increased due to 6 merit positions being abolished or redeployed)
 8 vehicles in the fleet

Family Investment Assistance Expenditures



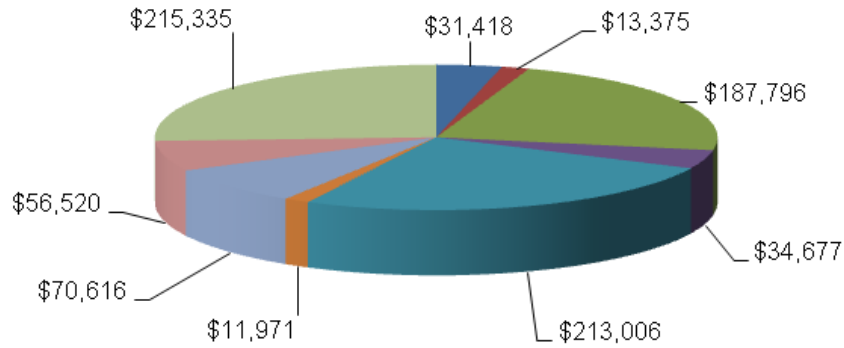
■ WAGS ■ EAFC ■ NPEP ■ P10/Work Related

Family Investment Expenditure Categories

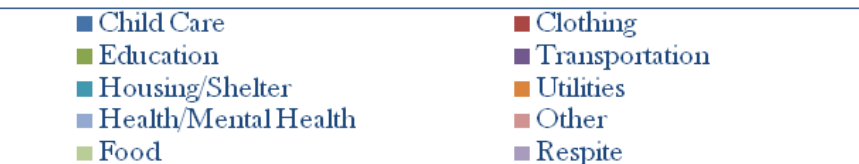
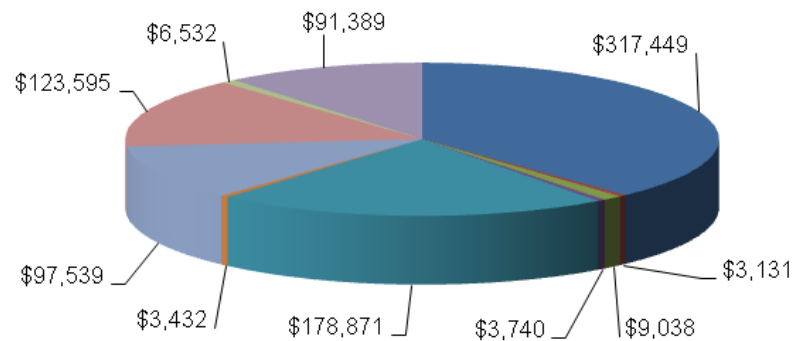


■ Housing/Shelter ■ Clothing ■ Education
 ■ Transportation ■ Utilities ■ Child Care
 ■ Other

Services Assistance Expenditures



Services Expenditure Categories



Services

Child Protective Services

Investigative Response (including ROAs)

61 Neglect
 57 Physical Abuse
 77 Sexual Abuse
 3 Mental Injury

Alternative Response

96 Physical Abuse
 157 Neglect (96 in FY 2015)

Risk of Harm Assessments

161 assessments (115 in FY 2015)
 Total of 1426 referrals (1344 in FY 2015)

Foster Care /Adoption Services

90 average children in Foster Care (State goal - 86)
 86 in care on July 1, 2016
 25 licensed foster parents
 23 children reunified (13% within 12 months)
 8 finalized adoptions (25% within 24 months)
 3 children left care to guardianship
 99% caseworker visitation (State goal - 95%)
 2.67 moves per 1,000 days based bed days of the number of children during their first 12 months in care (State goal - ≤ 4.12)

Adult Services

81 Adult Protective Services investigations
 37 SSTA (Social Services to Adults) Assessments
 64 SSTA and Senior Care cases
 11 adults in Project Home
 6 Project Home providers
 13 IHAS (In-Home Aide Services) customers
 Developmental Disability Respite cases - 38 children; 9 adults
 23 Functional Disability Respite cases - 56
 100% adults with no recurrence of abuse
 100% adults remaining in the community

Family Services

128 families with 291 children served
 1 child diverted to relative custody through Family Law custody court
 17 children entered into Foster Care