

## Letter from the Director



It's my honor to present the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services annual report for state fiscal year 2016. I'd like to highlight several new, innovative strategies we used to assist eligible county residents in achieving and maintaining self-sufficiency and

ensuring the safety of vulnerable children and adults.

Partnering with the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp., we referred more than 3,700 able-bodied food assistance recipients to job training programs, and more than 1,000 TCA customers found employment this year. Using a public-private partnership funding model, we successfully launched a new Homeless Outreach Team. And we partnered with the Mu Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., to initiate The Men's Circle, an emotional and educational support group for fathers who face challenges such as child support and unemployment.

Through the DHR Families Blossom initiative, our families are benefiting from access to two new therapeutic programs. Our Adoptions and Resource Homes Units received national recognition for implementing a new team approach that resulted in a record 24 adoptions of children from foster care. We also reached 100 active foster homes. By promoting family stability through case management, including parenting supports, in-home aide services, housing referrals and emergency assistance, we are actively working to strengthen the vulnerable adults and families we proudly serve.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors, community partners, County Executive Steve Schuh's administration and the Maryland Department of Human Resources for their support in helping us build stronger, safer and more self-sufficient families and adults.

--Carnitra D. White, Director

## Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

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### Who We Are

The mission of the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services is to assist county residents to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, provide services to strengthen individuals and families, and join our community partners in the protection of vulnerable children and adults.

### What We Do

Our staff works with individuals and families to keep children and vulnerable adults safe and assist Anne Arundel County residents with obtaining economic assistance benefits, employment, healthcare and other community supports to promote self-sufficiency. With each person, we strive to provide services that are accessible, customer-focused and delivered in a timely and accurate manner.

### Advisory Board:

Mary O'Brien, *Chair*

Meg Phillips, *Vice Chair*

Ernestine Jones, *Treasurer*

Yevola Peters, *Special Assistant for*

Minority Affairs --County Executive's Office

George C. Backert, Ph.D.

Patricia O'Brien-Boorman

Sara Pula, Ph.D.

J.Mark Poerio, Esq.



Maryland's Human Services Agency



## Annual Report State Fiscal Year 2016

### Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

*Helping build stronger, safer & more  
self-sufficient families and adults*



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., *Governor*  
Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*  
Lourdes R. Padilla, *Secretary*  
Carnitra D. White, *Director, AACoDSS*

## Family Investment

- More than 47,000 residents served annually
- Temporary Cash Assistance was provided to 3,117 active recipients (1,316 active cases) that include 779 adults and 2,338 children
- Placed 1,087 unemployed Temporary Cash Assistance recipients in jobs with an average starting wage of \$12.12
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) served 41,119 adults and children in 20,719 active cases
- Medical Assistance served 3,532 active cases
- 98.9% of all new assistance applications were processed on time

## Local General Administration

- Processed 70 new hires (349 employees)
- Fulfilled 2,150 computer work requests
- Processed 616 procurement transactions
- Completed 760 facilities work requests
- 9,000 total payments made by the Finance Department
- Serviced 219 phone issues monthly



## Social Services

### Child Welfare:

- Fiscal year 2016 ended with 130 youth in foster care placements, a one-year decrease of 14%
- Adoptions were finalized for 24 children in foster care last year, nearly doubling last year's effort
- 58 children left foster care and achieved permanency through either adoption, family reunification or guardianship
- Approved 38 new Resource Homes
- 405 Team Decision Meetings (TDMs) helped to divert 99 children from coming into foster care and provided a forum for family members to learn from DSS staff and community providers on how to deal with crisis by utilizing identified strengths and resources
- 100 active & approved resource homes
- In Home Services provided to 1,139 children (90% remained at home)
- Child Protective Services received 7,299 allegations of child maltreatment
- 1,040 families received Emergency Services

### Adult Services:

- 19 new adults were served through the In Home Aide Services program
- 205 Adult Protective Services investigations were completed in FY15
- Achieved 100% compliance - 30 day case closure rule
- 30 adult guardianships were finalized
- Added 3 new members to the APG Review Board

## Community Initiatives & Programs

*These programs meet the specific and dynamic needs of families, children and vulnerable adults in Anne Arundel County:*

### FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER:

- 240 families and 492 unduplicated participants attended self-sufficiency programs (Teen Parent Alternative Program, GED, ESL, etc.)
- 86 children ages 0-3 received free childcare while a parent attended education classes

### RESPONSIBLE PARENT EMPLOYMENT NETWORK PROGRAM (RPEN):

- 74 new non-custodial parents enrolled
- 36 participants were employed, paying \$261,619 in child support
- New Men's Circle partnership provides support group for men reconnecting with family

### BACK TO SCHOOL & HOLIDAY SHARING:

- 5,563 backpacks donated through the Back to School program. Value to County: \$439,250
- \$1.4 million: Value of FY16 Holiday Sharing program donations

### HOMELESS RESOURCES:

- Held Homeless Resource Day April 9 at Brooklyn Park Middle School. 339 guests were served by 90+ providers, 413 volunteers
- Total of 1,465 new homeless clients served, including 948 clients served by DSS