

Mission

The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services is dedicated to building and strengthening community partnerships that support and protect individuals and families, and that provide opportunities to attain stability and economic independence.

Guiding Principles

WORK – as the fundamental step toward independence and family self-sufficiency for those who are able to work.

COMMUNICATION – as the essential tool for open and continuous sharing of the work we do and the results we achieve.

COLLABORATION – as the way to build relationships with each other, those we serve and the community.

RESPECT – as the attitude we adopt toward customers and each other.

EXCELLENCE – as the standard against which we measure ourselves.

EMPOWERMENT – as the end result of all we do – the ability of our customers to meet their own life challenges and our ability to support them in transitions.

STRATEGIC VISIONING – as the way we respond to changing needs and measure the impact of our response.



Board of Directors:

- Erika Patregnani, Chair
- Clair Kollar
- Richard Buckler
- Judy Gilman
- James O. Farrell
- Melvin McClintock
- Darlene Johnson

St. Mary's County
Department of Social Services

Leonardtown Location

23110 Leonard Hall Drive
 Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
 Phone (240) 895-7000
 Fax (240) 895-7099
 Email: babell@dhr.state.md.us

Lexington Park Location

21775 Great Mills Road
 Lexington Park, Maryland 20653
 Phone (240) 895-7000
 Fax (240) 725-5725
 Email: babell@dhr.state.md.us

St. Mary's County Department Of Social Services

From The Director



It is with pride and excitement that I present for your review our 2008 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 challenging for the delivery of human services. Reductions in both our budget and staffing have had an impact on our ability to meet the needs of all of our vulnerable citizens. Despite this reduction in resources, we continue to provide quality human services to the citizens in our community. Our partnerships with many community organizations have helped us to bridge the gap and provide for many of the community's most vulnerable individuals.

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 independently support themselves and their families and be safe from abuse and neglect.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008



Martin O'Malley

Governor

Anthony G. Brown

Lt. Governor



Brenda Donald
Secretary

Services

Child Protective Services

119 physical abuse investigations
 167 neglect investigations
 46 sexual abuse investigations
 0 recurrences of maltreatment w/I 6 months
 (1 incident last year)
 10 monthly average Ex parte, Request of
 Another Agency and Safety Assessments

Foster Care/ Adoption Services

96 average children in Foster Care
 113 in care on July 1, 2008 (39% increase)
 51 children placed in St. Mary's County
 (24% increase)
 32 licensed foster parents (18% increase)
 9 children reunified w/I 12 months
 10 finalized adoptions (250% increase)
 14 children in group homes (75% increase)
 0 occurrences of abuse while in care

Adult Services

44 Adult Protective Services investigations
 70 SSTA and Senior Care cases
 16 adults in Project Home
 11 Project Home providers
 17 IHAS customers
 100% adults with no recurrence of abuse
 99% adults remaining in the community
 70 Developmental Disability Respite cases
 63 Functional Disability Respite cases

Homeless Services

265 individuals provided shelter services
 8,680 total bednights
 \$380,993 for rental assistance
 (includes all funds)
 \$156,804 for Emergency Shelter services
 (includes all funds)

Family Services

90 average families served monthly
 3,389 Service Intake cases
 10 Interagency Family Preservation cases

Family Investment

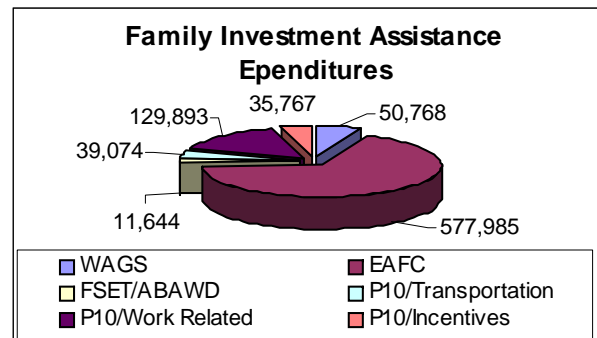
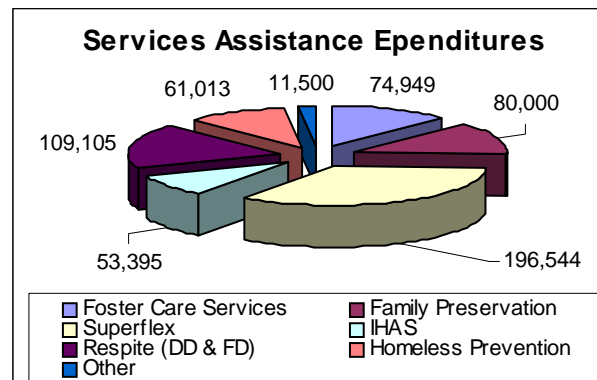
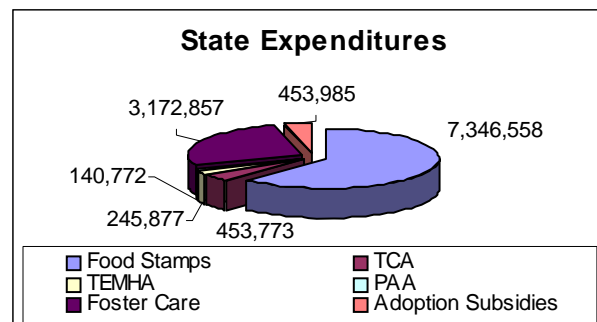
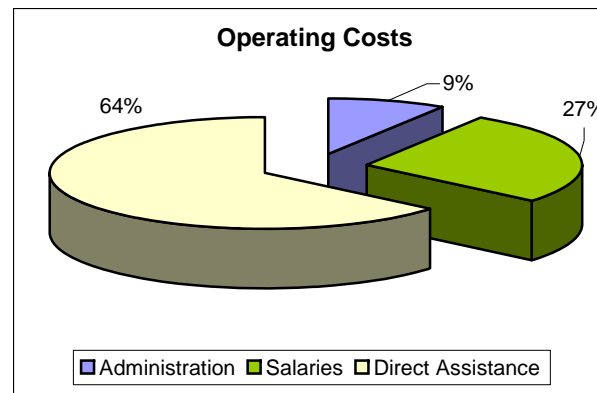
388 Temporary Cash Assistance caseload
 100% Universal Engagement Rate
 83% Employment Retention Rate
 21% Work Participation Rate
 (June not reflected)
 31% Recidivism Rate
 183 Job Placements (125 target)
 2.7% Food Stamp Error Rate
 16.7% Negative Food Stamp Error Rate
 6,386 Medical Assistance cases
 2,624 Food Stamps cases
 155 Temporary Disability Assistance Program
 83 Public Assistance to Adults cases

Child Support
 (Oct. '07 – July '08)

\$10,016,109 Child Support Collected
 95.2% Paternity Establishment
 81.9% of cases with Support Orders
 Established
 68.7% Paying Cases
 68.3% Current Child Support Collected
 67.7 % Collections on Arrears
 1,200 average case load in enforcement

Administration

120 Staff Positions
 16 staff hired in FY08
 10.74 Vacancy Rate
 9 vehicles in the fleet



Accomplishments

- Exceeded Adoption Goal – Adoption goal for FY08 was 9 and was able to have 10 children adopted.
- 5 Additional Family Foster Homes – Place Matters goal is to add 10 new foster homes by 2010. St. Mary's is half way to reaching its goal.
- Working Families Housing Program (WFHP) – Housing assistance program that was initiated by one of our social work staff (Alice McCreight). The WFHP works with families to provide stable housing and case management services for one year. In that time customers are assisted to become independent and self-sufficient. This program has received start up money from the county government.
- White Oak Trailer Park Resident Relocation. SMCDSS worked with the Housing Authority and property owner to relocate residents of a local trailer park being closed.
- Worked to establish a Non-custodial parent program at the local detention center.
- Exceeded Job Placement Goal – Job Placement goal was established at 125 and 183 customers were placed in jobs.
- Began budgeting class to assist customers in being better able to manage their limited income.
- Increased Transportation to rural parts of the County. Applied and received Mobility Management Grant for the county.
- Family Investment customer graduated from Bowie State University
- Over \$10,000,000 in Child Support collected.