

## Program Outcomes and Goals

### Adult Protective Services

Adults are safe from abuse/neglect/exploitation.

- 97% of investigations will have no confirmed report of abuse / neglect / exploitation within 6 months of closing.
- 85% of Adult Protective Services cases will be able to remain in the community in the least restrictive environment.

### Project Home

Adults are safe, protected and healthy in the least restrictive environment.

- 85% of Project HOME residents will be maintained in a stable placement for the next year.
- 97% of Project HOME residents will have no confirmed cases of abuse / neglect / exploitation within the last six months.
- 85% of new Project HOME placements will have improved functioning within six months.
- 85% of Project HOME-HIV customers will remain in their own home.
- 80% of HOPWA recipients will have stable housing.

Adults have their crisis needs met.

- 100% of Project HOME-HIV customers will have no utility turn off or eviction.
- 90% of HOPWA recipients will maintain employment or receive cash benefits that enable them to be self-sufficient.

### Social Services to Adults

Adults with supportive services are able to reside in the least restrictive environment.

- 90% of SSTA cases will be safely maintained in the community.

### Senior Care

Adults are safe, protected, and healthy in the least restrictive environment.

- 90% of Senior care cases will have no confirmed incidents of abuse / neglect / or exploitation within last six months.
- 87% Adults who are at risk of nursing home placement will be maintained in the community.

Adults, with supportive services, are able to reside in the least restrictive environment.

- 65% will receive gap-filling funds.
- 25% will receive IHAS services.

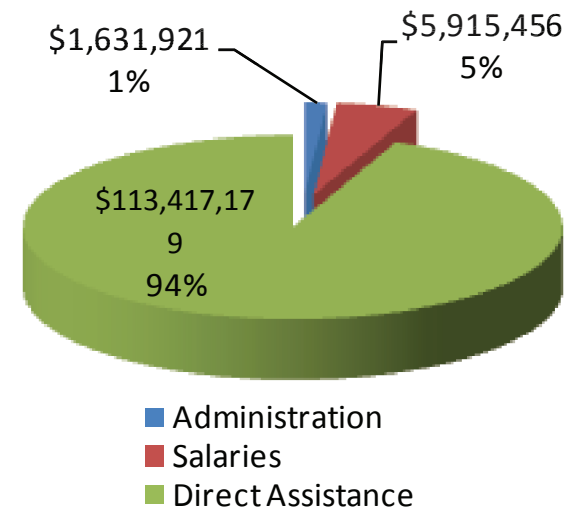


- Active Support Cases 2,312
- Total Child Support collected \$3,757,171
- Current Support Distributed \$2,731,207
- Arrears Distributed \$1,025,964

### Administration & Personnel

- Promoted 6 staff (7%) meeting goal of 5%

#### Operating Costs FY 2014



### Social Services Board

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| David Wooten, Chair    | Dr. James Bell   |
| Rick Price, Vice Chair | Glenn Payne, Sr. |
| Betty Lowe             | Jessica Dukes    |
| Susan Wingate          | Wendell Foxwell  |

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# Dorchester County Department of Social Services



# 2014 Annual Report



# From the Director

I'm pleased to present the Dorchester County Department of Social Services (DCDSS) annual report. Fiscal year 2014 was a time of transition for us. With Bill McDonnell retiring and Victoria Jackson-Stanley providing valuable interim leadership until my arrival in July, 2014, it was a year of steady progress.

I'm honored to take the helm of an agency so committed to the children, youth and families it serves. I have found in a very short time that the residents of Dorchester County embody a "can do" philosophy. It is with that philosophy that moves our vision and mission forward.

In the upcoming months you can expect increased community partnerships to ensure opportunities and resources are available to our customers. Our focus will be on providing the highest level of quality service in all divisions. Keeping children and youth safe, providing assistance to those in need and creating a path for employment are goals that you can expect from our DCDSS team.

As with most things of great importance, the road ahead to accomplish our goals will not be easy, but I can say it will be a worthwhile journey.

### ***Our Vision***

We envision a Maryland where people independently support themselves and their families, where individuals are safe from abuse and neglect.

### ***Our Mission***

We will aggressively pursue opportunities to assist people in economic need, increase prevention efforts and protect vulnerable children and adults.

***Nicholette Smith-Bligen, LICSW, Director***



# Child & Family Services

## Child Protective Services

- Conducted 186 investigations from 232 local reports received. The results of completed investigations were:

13.9% - Indicated

24.2% - Unsubstantiated

61.8% - Ruled out

- There were no child fatalities
- 46 were assigned for Alternative Response. Alternative Response was implemented April 1, 2014.

## Adoption Services

- 1 adoption was finalized

## Out of Home Care

- 7 Children required placement
- Goals were achieved for 6 of 34 children:
  - 1 returned home
  - 1 adopted
  - 4 emancipated

## Federal Child Welfare Goals & Outcomes

### Children are safe from abuse and neglect

- 90% of cases will have no indicated finding (for a current incident) while the case is open for investigation.
- No more than 5% of cases will return for investigation with an indicated ruling within six months of closure.

### Children in out-of-home care are safe from abuse and neglect.

- No more than 6% of children in foster care will be abused or neglected by their substitute caregiver.

Children in out-of-home care will have timely permanent living arrangements.

- No more than 8.6% of children entering foster care will be re-entries within 12 months of a previous episode.
- At least 86.7% of children in foster care will have no more than 2 placements in one year.
- At least 76.2% of children leaving foster care to reunification will do so within 12 months of entry.
- At least 32% of children leaving foster care to adoption will do so within 24 months.
- 35% of the children placed in foster care will achieve permanency within 18 months.
- 50% of the children with a permanency plan of adoption will be finalized within 12 months of adoption placement.

## In-Home Services

- 144 families served
- 314 children served
- 2 (0.64%) of children placed out of home
- 90% of children served remained with their families.

# Family Investment

- Placed 83 Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients in jobs (22 full time) at an average wage of \$8.78 per hour
- 55 employers hired TCA customers during the year
- Issued 126 photo ID cards to assist customers in obtaining employment
- Transportation was provided to 316 customers through Delmarva Community Transit.
- The "Employability U" life skills training program provided job readiness services to 222 persons.

## Job Placements

Individuals receiving Temporary Cash Assistance are required to seek work. Our Work Opportunities staff assist in developing workplace skills and finding employment.

Fiscal Year	Jobs Obtained
FY 2013	83

## Energy Assistance

We provided assistance to 2,763 Dorchester County households totalling \$2,762,512 through Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) and Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP). In many cases, this avoided energy cutoffs.

