



Leadership Southern Maryland

Regional Collaboration for Today's Leaders and Tomorrow's Vision

2018 Executive Program's Spotlight Sponsor



Housing & Human Services Session

Thursday, March 1, 2018
Church of the Ascension (lower level)
21641 Great Mills Road
Lexington Park, MD 20653

SESSION SPONSOR: Catherine Meyers, LCPC, Executive Director, Center for Children

SESSION ADVOCATES: ROBBIE LOKER, LSM'16 AND CHRISTOPHER LONGMORE, LSM'09

Themes:

- Importance of nonprofits in human services work
- Intertwining of childhood experiences, poverty, mental health, and homelessness
- How do we as leaders help? Where and who?
- Evaluating our own judgments and stigma on real human need issues
- What are the issues and impacts surrounding the housing market in Southern Maryland

Outcomes:

- Enhanced awareness
- The array of nonprofit human service agencies in Southern Maryland
- Examples of efforts to solve recognized problems and that sometimes one person can make a difference
- Long-term impact of childhood experiences
- Issues of stigma for those in poverty, homeless, and living with mental illness

Connect the Dots:

- What impact do nonprofits have on workforce and economy in Southern Maryland? What if they weren't here?
- What is the long term recognized impact of childhood experiences? How do they affect health and employers?
- What are my own biases/values about homeless and mental illness and poverty?
- What can I as one person do to make a difference?

- Where do I help – in my own back yard or is there a benefit to helping other places?
- How does mental illness affect poverty and homelessness?
- What resources are available to learn more about any of the areas covered today?

Thursday, March 1, 2018

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:00-8:30 am	Project Time Church of the Ascension 21641 Great Mills Road Lexington Park, MD 20653	
8:30-9:00 am	Introduction to the Day and Welcome	Robbie Loker '16 , Home Equity Strategist, Primary Residential Mortgage, Helen Mattingly Wernecke
9:00-10:20 am	Asset Development Approach to Fighting Poverty: Building Volunteer Basis – A Panel Discussion	Kerry Miciotto, LCSW-C , Team Leader, St. Mary's Department of Social Services, Lexington Park Office, Dr. Janice Walthour , Retired Educator, Current Board Member of College of Southern Maryland, Sara Martin , Church Administrator & Community Ministry Outreach Liaison, Lexington Park United Methodist Church, Jennifer Neff, LCSW-C , Program Specialist for Adult Services, St. Mary's Department of Social Services, H. Spearman Lancaster , Executive Director, Three Oaks Shelter
10:20-10:30 am	Break	
10:30 am-12:00 pm	Ace Survey and Discussion	Cathy Meyers , Executive Director, Center for Children
12:00 pm-1:30 pm	Luncheon at Church of the Ascension	Chris Longmore '09 Attorney and Partner, Dugan, McKissick & Longmore
1:30-2:00 pm	H.O.P.E. Helpers Overcoming Problems Effectively	Wanda Digennaro , Director, H.O.P.E.
2:00-2:15 pm	Break	
2:15-3:00 pm	Heart F.E.L.T. Feeding Empty Little Tummies	Little Jack Woodford , Program Coordinator, Heart F.E.L.T.
3:00-4:00 pm	Meet A.L.I.C.E.	Mike Bellis , Executive Director, United Way of Charles County
4:00-4:30 pm	“Connecting the Dots” Wrap Up and Reflections	Robbie Loker '16, Chris Longmore '09, Helen Mattingly Wernecke
5:00-7:00 pm	After Hours Social at Elements – Eatery & Mixology	46580 Expedition Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Directions to Church of the Ascension: 21641 Great Mills Road Lexington Park, MD 20653

From La Plata: Take MD 6 E/ Charles Street to MD 235 S/ Three Notch Road. Turn right onto MD 235S/ Three Notch Road. Turn right onto N. Shangri-La Drive. Turn right onto Great Mills Road. The destination will be on your right.

From Prince Frederick: Take MD 4 S/ Solomons Island Road to MD 235 S/ Three Notch Road. Turn left onto MD 235 S/ Three Notch Road. Turn right onto N. Shangri-La Drive. Turn right onto Great Mills Road. The destination will be on your right.

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Mission and Values: At Cherry Cove, we pledge to provide distinctive quality and unparalleled customer service as we strive to gain the respect and trust of our customers, and exceed their expectations. We accomplish this with attention to detail, driven by our customers' desires, with uncompromising honesty and integrity. "Do It Right the First Time" is our commitment as a team. The success of Cherry Cove is determined by our success in operating as a unified team. We have to earn the confidence and admiration of our customers every day. Our products and services are provided by our people. There are no magic formulas.

Core Values: The Cherry Cove Group is steered by seven core values, which have been influential to the company's longevity.

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- Compassion

Vision: If you pull our core values together one by one they have the characteristics of a group of people who have a vision to develop growth for the good of the community. The Vision of Cherry Cove Group is to give the community an opportunity to see our vision and to grow with us. Our Vision is one that stands out because we participate with the community and want to be a part of the basic needs fulfilled for unity and peace as a team.

BIOGRAPHIES

ROBBIE LOKER LSM'16, *Home Equity Strategist, Primary Residential Mortgage*



Robbie Loker is a loan officer with Primary Residential Mortgage Inc. specializing in loans for older home owners, specifically FHA-insured reverse mortgages. In this role, Loker is often found serving as a concierge of senior services and home equity strategist to boomers and their parents.

Prior to her career with PRMI, Loker spent over 30 years as a public servant at local departments of social services in Charles, St. Mary's, and Prince George's counties. Working first as a caseworker and later as an administrator and assistant director gave her insight into a side of society few ever know.

Collaborating with local agencies and nonprofits was key in providing a safety net for those with needs the government could not meet. A new appreciation for the critical role nonprofits played took hold. This is also where Loker began her relentless advocacy for the power of volunteering.

Loker received a BS in organizational management from Washington Adventist University and is a proud member of the LSM Class of 2016. She currently is a director on the Medstar Health System board, is the chair-elect of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce, and board president of Health Share of St. Mary's Inc. Loker is a past chair of the United Way of St. Mary's County board, the board of directors for Medstar St. Mary's Hospital and the Maryland Hospital Bond Review Committee of the Maryland Hospital Association, and past commodore of the St. Mary's River Yacht Club. Loker and her husband, Keith, live in Chaptico with their rescue dog, Sammy.

KERRY MICIOTTO, LCSW-C, *Team Leader, St. Mary's Department of Social Services, Lexington Park Office*

Kerry Miciotto graduated from University of Maryland School of Social Work in 1993. She was recruited from graduate school by the Industrial Areas Foundation to organize a national antipoverty campaign which received national recognition and became the first living wage campaign in America. Miciotto began her social service career in 2000 in foster care for the Baltimore County Department of Social Services. She transferred to St. Mary's County Department of Social Services in 2005 as the program manager for in-home family services and the team leader for the Lexington Park office.

Miciotto has received public recognition for her community efforts with the St. Mary's County Judy Center and Board of Education. She has supervised master's level social work students from Catholic University, Salisbury University and University of Maryland in their field placements with the Department of Social Services.

In 2012, Miciotto and Catholic University graduate Jennifer Neff received The Paul Hastings Award for Innovative Programs from the Maryland Association of Social Service boards for development and collaboration with community partners using an Asset Development Community Model Approach to working with the homeless in St. Mary's County. In 2016, they received the Paul Hastings Award for Innovative Programs for the development and collaboration with community partners using the Asset Development Community Model Approach in the creation of the first rural medical respite program in Maryland for the homeless.

As part of her community practice in St. Mary's, Miciotto has worked with various community partners to build volunteer base efforts to assist those in poverty in the community. The WARM (Wrapping Arms Round Many) program has 2000 volunteers which assist in providing shelter space for the homeless during inclement weather. She has also collaborated with the St. Mary's County NAACP and the local library to develop a reading program in the social service office. Miciotto is licensed to practice in Maryland as a licensed certified social worker-clinical. She has served as chair for the St. Mary's County Homeless Prevention board.

DR. JANICE TALBERT WALTHOUR, *Retired Educator, Current Board Member of College of Southern Maryland*



Dr. Janice Talbert Walthour is a life-long resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. She is a retired educator who worked in St. Mary's County Public Schools for 36 years as a teacher, resource teacher, assistant principal, principal, and coordinator of academic intervention programs. She graduated from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and earned a master's degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a doctorate in administration and supervision from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In May of 2017, she was bestowed the honor of receiving an honorary doctorate for the prestigious St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Dr. Walthour's notable service includes serving on the College of Southern Maryland board of trustees for nine years. She is also a past president and current member of the Unified Committee for Afro- American Contributions (UCAC) whose mission is to document, increase understanding of and foster African American contributions to the history and development of St. Mary's County, while advocating for improvements in health, education, and community building for all citizens. UCAC is responsible for erecting the African American Monument of St. Mary's County.

Dr. Walthour is president of the St. Mary's County Branch NAACP #7025 and chairs the education committee. She takes an active role in facilitating the NAACP's annual Southern Maryland Spring College and Career Fair featuring Historically Black Colleges and Universities and local colleges. Dr. Walthour serves on the St. Mary's County Library board of trustees and the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association board of directors.

In March, 2018, Dr. Walthour had the honor of receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the St. Mary's County Commission for Women. She is an active member of St. Peter Claver Catholic church, where she welcomes the congregation and guests, lectures, sings in the gospel choir, and is a member of the Women of the Word, a women's prayer ministry. She has been married to Larry for 33 years and they live in Lexington Park, Maryland.

SARA MARTIN, Church Administrator & Community Ministry Outreach Liaison, Lexington Park United Methodist Church



Sara Martin is the church administrator and community ministry outreach liaison at Lexington Park United Methodist Church and has over 20 years of experience working with the impoverished and homeless people in the community.

Martin is the current chairperson of the Regional Continuum of Care board and represents the faith community on the St. Mary's County Homeless Prevention board. As part of the local board she is very involved with organizing the annual Community Resource Day.

Martin has been involved with WARM since the beginning and continues to provide leadership for the program. She helped identify the need in our community for a respite care facility and worked with local leaders to assure its success.

Martin developed and maintains a community assistant/resource guide which is widely used by both people seeking assistance, as well as the service providers. She has established a strong partnership with the Department of Social Services and regularly works with this agency to identify and fill the gaps in services that exist.

Martin is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, attended St. Mary's College, and lives in Leonardtown with her husband.

JENNIFER NEFF, LCSW-C, Program Specialist for Adult Services, St. Mary's Department of Social Services

Jennifer Neff graduated from Catholic University of America, National School of Social Service in 2012 with a master's degree in clinical and macro social work. She is licensed to practice as a licensed certified social worker-clinical.

Neff began her social service career in September, 2004 as a case manager in the foster care and adoption unit for the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services. In 2011, she transferred from the foster care/adoption unit to pursue new endeavors and experiences with the in-home family services program. As an in-home family services worker, Neff coordinated services for homeless women with children through the Department of Social Services and Three Oaks Women with Children Shelter. In 2012, this program was recognized by Maryland Association of Social Services board of directors and received The Paul Hastings award for Innovative Programs from the Maryland Association of Social Service boards for development and collaboration with community partners using an Asset Development Community Model Approach to working with the homeless in St. Mary's County.

In August, 2015, Neff became the department's program specialist for adult services, where she continues to work with community partners to increase resources for vulnerable adults. In 2016, she developed the first rural, second in the state, medical respite program in conjunction with MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Three Oaks Center, and supporting partners. This program was recognized by Maryland Association of Social Services board of directors and received the Paul Hastings award for the most innovative program implemented by a social service program.

Neff facilitates St. Mary's County's Multidisciplinary Team, the core function of which is to sustain interagency cooperation and collaboration in convening community partners to assist vulnerable adults and families. She is also a voting member on the tri-county Continuum of Care (COC). The COC is designed to promote community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and state and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness.

CHRISTOPHER T. LONGMORE LSM'09, Attorney and Partner, Dugan, McKissick & Longmore



Christopher T. Longmore is an attorney and partner of the Dugan, McKissick & Longmore, LLC law firm. His practice areas include complex civil litigation, zoning/land use and related real estate matters, estate planning, and government contracts. His litigation practice focuses primarily on business and partnership disputes, construction-related contract disputes, and other real estate related matters, including boundary disputes, adverse possession claims and quiet title actions. Longmore routinely appears before the local county planning commissions and boards of appeal to assist clients in zoning and land use matters, including critical area variances, conditional uses, administrative appeals, and other development related issues. He also represents clients in all aspects of personal injury matters, including negotiation of fair settlements with insurance companies and representation in court; and he leads the firm's collections practice.

Longmore received his law degree, magna cum laude, from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1997, where he was Order of the Coif, editor-in-chief of the American Criminal Law Review, and a Legal Research and Writing Law Fellow. After graduation from law school, Longmore served as a law clerk for the Honorable William M. Nickerson, United States district court judge for the District of Maryland. Longmore was also an associate with the law firm of Hogan and Hartson, LLP (now Hogan Lovells) prior to joining Dugan and McKissick, LLC in 2000. He earned a B.A. degree in psychology from Loyola College in Maryland (now known as Loyola University Maryland) in 1993 and received his high school diploma from St. Mary's Ryken High School in 1989.

Longmore is actively involved in many community and service activities, including past service on the boards of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce (board chair 2010 - 2011), Southern Maryland Naval Alliance, Leadership Southern Maryland, United Way of St. Mary's, Maryland Leadership Workshops, Inc., the Great Mills Tritons Summer Swim Team, and Christmas in April St. Mary's. Longmore was the co-chair of the St. Mary's County Workforce Housing Community Task Force. He is a graduate of the Leadership Southern Maryland Class of 2009. He was the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce 2015 Business Person of the Year and the St. Mary's Ryken High School 2014 Alumni of the Year. Longmore lives in the Great Mills area with his wife, Katie, and their four children.

CATHERINE MEYERS, LCPC, Executive Director, Center for Children and LSM Founding Sponsor



Catherine Meyers is a nonprofit manager and licensed counselor with over 34 years of experience working with children's mental health, specializing in child abuse. Twenty-four years ago, she founded what has now become the largest child and family agency in Southern Maryland. Meyers works tirelessly with legislation affecting children and victims. She has served on many local and state committees working with victims and children's mental health issues. She is an exceptional grant writer at the local, state and federal level.

Meyers' specialties include mental health, child abuse treatment, nonprofit management, grant writing, development, and program management. She has completed ACES Master Training and is also a master trainer for Interdiction for the Protection of Children, a law enforcement patrol trainer.

Meyers founded the first comprehensive child abuse prevention, education and treatment program in Southern Maryland. She serves as expert witness in child abuse cases. The Center for Children program is now the largest mental health provider in the public system in Southern Maryland and serves as the Charles County Child Advocacy Center. Meyers is responsible for public training as requested, budgets, grants, and administration of agency. The agency has grown from 1 staff member and 120 clients per year, to 90 staff members, 20 programs, and 3000+ clients per year in four counties. In 2012, Meyers was named to 2012- Top 100 Maryland Women.

WANDA DIGENNARO, Director, HOPE

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Wanda Digennaro graduated from Kenneth Hagin Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For 25 years, she traveled and pastored with her first husband in full-time ministry. Together they established a church in Branford, Florida that is still growing today.

Digennaro has called southern Maryland home for 15 years and came here after Hurricane Isabelle flooded her home and business in Baltimore, Maryland. Since 2014, she has served as director of H.O.P.E. where her passion to serve the vulnerable and needy continues.

Since 1990, H.O.P.E. – Helpers Overcoming Problems Effectively has helped over 130,000 needy individuals with electric bills, fuel oil, rent, food, medicine, and other emergency needs in St. Mary's County. To complement this effort, their food pantry located at Church of the Ascension has fed over 22,000 households.

Founded in 1986 with the goal of bridging the gap between the needy and those churches and people who want to help them, H.O.P.E. is an incorporated tax-exempt non-profit and a proud member of the St. Mary's County United Way.

LITTLE JACK WOODFORD, Program Coordinator, Heart F.E.L.T.



Jack Woodford is a certified lay minister at Trinity United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland. He is retired from Washington Gas Light Company where he worked for 37 years. Most of his ministry is serving the least of these that are beyond the walls of the church and out in the community. When he retired, Woodford started working to help the children that are in need. He is the coordinator of the Heart F.E.L.T. Ministry. He is also the Calvert County coordinator of the Tree of Angels program. In addition, Woodford volunteers regularly at Farming 4 Hunger where he works alongside of Maryland Department of Corrections inmates that are near the end of their sentences to

help re-acclimate them back into society.

MICHAEL BELLIS, Executive Director, United Way of Charles County



Michael Bellis is the executive director of United Way of Charles County – he joined the organization in November of 2014. During his tenure, Bellis established new and dynamic relationships with individuals, organizations, and companies, contributing to a 119% increase in impact gifts. He also launched an affinity giving program to engage young professionals, rebranded the Women's Giving Program to align with network best practices, and launched a major giving program.

Bellis has held a variety of positions with nonprofit and for-profit businesses across the region including Hospice of Charles County and Melwood, Inc. – Maryland's second-largest disability provider. At Melwood, Bellis chaired the United Way Campaign and, over a two-year period, raised over \$40,000. Prior to joining United Way of Charles County, Bellis served as the community relations manager for the region's oldest home health provider.

Bellis serves on the board of directors of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, Calvert/Charles/St. Mary's Continuum of Care, Charles County Local Management board, and the Charles County Homeless and Emergency Shelter Committee. He is also the past president of the Waldorf Rotary Club.

Bellis is originally from Sarasota, Florida and relocated to Southern Maryland eight years ago. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, fishing, and working on his classic Jeep.



FY2018 SPONSORS

Leadership Southern Maryland is strengthened by the financial contributions and meaningful involvement of individuals, foundations, and corporations that believe in the mission to educate and inspire a diverse group of current and emerging leaders to create collaborations and partnerships to impact the community needs of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The Leadership Southern Maryland Board of Directors would like to thank all of the generous sponsors listed below for their wonderful contributions during fiscal year 2018. **THANK YOU!**

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