

March 2025

#### Message from the Chair

Greetings Everyone. As we celebrate National Social Work Month, we have another opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all those who dedicate their energy and expertise to serving our communities. Those of us who are working in the Department of Social Services and are serving on advisory boards across the state know that social work is more than a profession—it is a calling that requires immense compassion, resilience, and commitment. This month, we recognize your contributions and acknowledge the importance of other



important activities we engage in to support vulnerable populations. This year's annual MASSB conference theme, Rising to the Challenge: Strengthening

Local Boards Through Advocacy, recognizes that our impact extends beyond direct service. Through collaboration and advocacy local boards can play a critical role in ensuring that vital services reach those who need them most. A shining example is the work being done in Talbot County, where the Department of Social Services Advisory Board, the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center, and Talbot Community Connections have formed a powerful partnership to protect and support children and families. To all who serve - whether through volunteering or championing policy change - thank you for your dedication. Let us continue to rise to the challenge and seize opportunities.

Best,

Tony

## Reminder!

Our e-mail has changed to massbftrustee@gmail.com Our new contact for financial matters is Nate Poerio, massbftreasurer@gmail.com.

#### **National Social Work Month**

It's time to say "THANK YOU" to our hardworking, caring and compassionate DSS workers. The lovely poem "Who Am I?" provides just a glimpse into this noble profession.



Who Am I? by Terricka Hardy, LCSW, ACSW

Who am I? I'm glad you asked I'm the one who's willing to advocate, no matter how hard the task

To some I'm an educator, to others a broker

I wear many hats, I'm a Social Worker!

Many fail to realize the impact of this great profession

progression Held to strong ethical standards, inspired to serve

Promoting human well-being, Social Work has contributed to our world's

Social Workers fight hard to promote the social justice everyone deserves

Valuing the human relationship, respecting the worth of the individual

A true Social Worker is selfless, putting people first is a ritual

Vowing to remain competent in all we do, we strive to uphold integrity by staying committed to you.

So, who am I, again? Well, I'm glad you asked

I'm a proud, dedicated Social Worker, that's who.

Thank You, DSS!

Wish your board had a website? Now you do! Follow the template developed by Howard County's board to let your community know about your meetings and activities. Add your link to social and print media to easily share information about your E-mail your content to board to potential volunteers and donors. massbftrustee@gmail.com and our webmaster will have you up and running in no time.

Check it out at <a href="https://www.massbfoundation.org/howard-county">https://www.massbfoundation.org/howard-county</a>



Quick Tip!

**Community Connection** 

**Elaine Wilson** Chair, Talbot County Advisory Board

connection the Talbot board has with the County's Children's Advocacy Center and the nonprofit, Talbot Community Connections. Together, the 3 organizations are providing vital support to adults and children in Talbot County.

The **Talbot County Department of Social Services** (TCDSS) Advisory Board's role is to provide advisory, advocacy, oversight, community education, and resource development for

We are grateful to Talbot County's Board Chair, Elaine Wilson, for sharing the unique

the Talbot County DSS. The TCDSS Board Chair also serves as the Board representative to the **Talbot County** Children's Advocacy Center(TCCAC) Advisory Committee. The TCCAC serves children who have been sexually abused and their non-offending caregivers in a multi-disciplinary environment. Accredited by the National Children's Alliance, TCCAC services include medical, mental health, advocacy and support. TCCAC provides forensic medical services for the five Mid Shore counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot). Since the establishment of our Children's Advocacy Center in 2003, when a child is suspected of being abused, the child is brought by a "safe adult" to the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center; a safe, child-focused, trauma-informed environment. At the

CAC, the child tells their story only once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that is child friendly and legally sound. Then, a multidisciplinary team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, a prosecutor, a mental health consultant, child protective services, and a family advocate make decisions together about how to help the child based on the interview. This multidisciplinary team (MDT) response is the core part of the work that our CAC provides. Talbot Community Connections (TCC) is a non-profit organization which raises funds to support the Talbot County Department of Social Services to help meet the unmet needs that are fundamental to the safety, security, health and well-being of Talbot County's

children and adults. Since its founding in 2001, TCC has assisted thousands of Talbot County residents. Funding supports the TCCAC, families in crisis, children in foster care, vulnerable seniors, adults with disabilities, individuals that are unhoused or unemployed. An example of the funding provided to the TCCAC is the provision of various therapy





modalities to enhance outcomes for victims of child sexual abuse.





**APRIL 25** 

#### MASSB Boards! Grants up to \$2500 are now available for local boards. The funds are intended to address

Mini-Grant Opportunity for

community needs or kick-start larger initiatives for which boards lack funding. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. For more information and to apply click here.



### • Community Meeting: 12pm-1pm, Virtual **SEPTEMBER 5** • Community Meeting: 12pm-1pm, Virtual

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

**OCTOBER 16-17** • Fall Conference: Howard County

# The MASSB Foundation was formed in 2007 to enable fundraising by Department of Social

Services Advisory Boards for social services programs that are not governmentally funded. We are comprised entirely of volunteers who serve on local boards in each of Maryland's 23 counties. Together, the boards finance valuable services to thousands of Marylanders each year, thanks to the businesses and individuals who donate funds and attend fundraising events. Tax ID #26-1192752

> Our mailing address is: MASSB Foundation P.O. Box 2351

The MASSB Foundation

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