



# **Violence, Injury, & Trauma (VIT) Action Team Meeting**

**Welcome! Please sign in**

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**


# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Partner Spotlight
3. Partner Updates
4. 2026 Projects
5. Community Forum
6. Meeting Close
  - Contact HSMP
  - Upcoming Meetings

# Introductions

- See the attendee [list](#)
- As a reminder, we will not accept any AI note takers or transcription software into our meetings

## Action Team Co-Chairs

- **Taylor Spencer Davis**, Deputy Director at Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy
  - **Tori Poss**, Probation and Parole Agent
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# Partner Spotlight

- Chamaine Jones
  - Sexual Assault Program Manager
  - Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy: [smcfa.net](http://smcfa.net)
  - View the slides
  - Domestic Violence/SA hotline: 240-925-0084
  - Take Back the Night on April 21 at DPC at SMCM at 6 PM
  - Sexual Assault Awareness panel on April 23 at 5 PM at LP Library
    - Donations needed for refreshments! Taylor Spencer Davis
  - St. Mary's County resources

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month Panel 2026

Support. Listen. Believe.

Please join us for a panel discussion about sexual assault advocacy and prevention in Southern Maryland.

Thursday,  
April 23, 2026  
5:00 PM

Lexington Park Library  
21677 Franklin Delano  
Roosevelt Blvd

### Meet Our Panelists

#### Dara Arnold



Dara Arnold has worked for MedStar St. Mary's Hospital's Emergency Department for nearly twelve years, and she currently serves as the Assistant Director of Nursing in the Emergency Department and Coordinator of the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program. She is a licensed forensic nurse examiner for both adult and pediatric patients, with over 5 years of experience. She has completed extensive training in performing forensic assessments, collecting forensic evidence, and providing care to victims of abuse, trauma, and violence. Dara has been awarded a nursing Daisy Award (2023), Employee of the Year from The Healthcare Council (2024), and the David M. Sargent Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Award from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (2024), all for her work in developing and strengthening our community's forensic nurse examiner program.

#### Cerise Woodard



Cerise Woodard is a Registered Nurse, Forensic Nurse Examiner, and founder of BoundlessHer, a platform dedicated to awareness, prevention, and empowerment around domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. With over 30 years of healthcare experience, she combines clinical expertise with survivor-centered advocacy to educate communities and professionals on recognizing vulnerability and responding with compassion. Cerise is a dynamic speaker committed to helping others break cycles of silence and step into awareness and freedom.

#### Zach Varda



Zach Varda attended the Ohio State University for his undergraduate degree before attending the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason for Law School. He started with the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office in 2023, and he has been handling domestic violence cases in Circuit Court since December 2023. He received the Vickie F. Gelfman Award in 2025, a state-wide award that recognizes a prosecutor who exemplifies the best of the profession through their integrity, ability, community involvement, and commitment to justice. He takes pride in serving the community and victims in his role as an Assistant State's Attorney.

#### Chamaine Jones



Chamaine Jones grew up in Southern Maryland and attended Bowie State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Child and Adolescent Studies with a minor in Psychology. Following graduation, Ms. Jones continued her work in the childcare field before transitioning into behavioral health, where she gained additional experience supporting individuals and families. In March of 2016, Chamaine began working for the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy (SMCFA) as a Court Advocate. Demonstrating leadership and innovation, she developed SMCFA's case management program in 2017. In 2019, when SMCFA became the Rape Crisis Center for St. Mary's County, she stepped into the role of Sexual Assault Program Manager. Most recently, she earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) from Walden University with concentrations in trauma and child and family practice.

# Partner Updates

Please type out your update, including any links or contact information, and put them in the chat. This ensures the minutes are correct.

- **HSMP** has launched a survey for all community members. Please help us share these as they help us determine the **HSMP** priority areas for the next 6 years! The survey will be open until **June 30, 2026** to all who live, work, or play in SMC. Learn more and download the flyers at [healthystmarys.com/cha2026](http://healthystmarys.com/cha2026)
- Sign up to help table for HSMP here! We cannot attend events without volunteers.
  - Already tabling at an event? Consider having the CHA flyer at your table. Contact Lauren for paper copies.
- The ACEs Military video we worked on is now posted to Youtube! Please share our Facebook post about this resource!
- **SMCHD's** Annual Community Baby Shower will be held on May 2 at Margaret Brent Middle School from 9 - 11 AM. This is open to new or pregnant moms. Registration is required but limited to 300 participants. All participants receive free diapers, wipes, resources, and door prizes.
  - CareNet, Judy Center, Center for Children: may be open to accepting diaper donations
- **SMCHD** and the **Department of Aging** will have a community shred and medication take back event at the SMC government campus on April 25! The **SMCHD Risk Reduction** team will be there to provide resources. View the press release.

# Partner Updates

- Save the date: Annual Meeting is on September 24 at USMSM SMART building!
- Save the date: SMCHD will be cohosting Recovery Fest on September 5 at Annmarie Gardens from 10 - 2

# 2026 Projects

- Since HSMP will be focusing on the CHA this year, HSMP will only be able to work on 1-2 projects this year.
  - Supporting the “Why Don’t They Just Leave” panel in October at the LP Library.
    - What day in October should we ask for? October 19 (backup 26)
    - Lauren has reached out about reserving
  - Teen dating violence/healthy relationships
    - Postcard was posted on PeachJar. Taylor has hard copies of this!
    - Letter was sent to the schools, SMCFA will be able to have a table during lunchtime to share resources. This could be a stepping stone to future collaboration.
    - HSMP donated some items, but more can be used! Please email Taylor if you have any items to donate

# Community Forum

- Bills to follow:
  - SB 433/HB 497: Temporary and final protective orders allowing for longer than 7 days between.
    - SB 433 died in senate but it's cross-file HB 497 is now in the senate Judicial Proceedings Committee (hearing TBD)
    - Amended version removes 'relief' provisions from the original legislation for the temporary stage but still extends the duration of a temporary protective order from 7 to 14 days
- May 21: Empower Hour graduation at Great Mills! Collecting materials to give away to 25 graduates (giveaway items, resources, information). Reach out to Brianne

## Meeting Close

- Contact HSMP
- Upcoming Meetings



# CONTACT HSMP



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# Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Interested in being an upcoming Partner Spotlight? Sign-up [here](#)
- Our next meeting is **April 23, 2026 at 1 PM**

