

The following individuals are serving on the TFN Board of Directors for fiscal year 2008:



L to R: John Lehner, Karen Salmon, April Sharp, Kathy Foster, LouAnn Parson, Fayette Engstrom, Sherry Sutton, Robin Davenport and Bob Blades. Missing from photo are Tim Haynes, Joe Newell and Connie Pullen.

Robert E. Blades (Voluntary Community Representative)

Robert (Bob) Blades is serving a second one year term as the Chair of the TFN Board. Now retired, Bob was the Executive Vice President of ConAgra Foods, Inc. for 26 years and the Executive Vice President of Tri-Gas & Oil Co., Inc. for 19 years.

Bob's current volunteer contributions in the community include: serving as President of Chesapeake College Foundation, Inc.; serving on the Advisory Board of Chesapeake Volunteer Center (CVC); and serving on Congressman Gilchrest's Service Academy Application Evaluations. In addition he has served as a Past Member of the Board of Trustees of Chesapeake College and as the Past President Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI).

Robin Davenport (Voluntary Community Representative)

Robin Davenport has been the Executive Director for CASA of Talbot County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) since 1990. Under her direction, CASA of Talbot County has grown to the point that the organization provides a Court Appointed Special Advocate for every child under the protection of the court due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. CASA of Talbot County is the only CASA program in the state of Maryland to serve 100% of the children who need CASA at their side.

Robin joined CASA of Talbot County seventeen years ago after serving for several years as the Executive Director of Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the Upper Eastern Shore. Prior to her work here in Talbot County, Robin served for 8 years as the Director of the Victim Witness Assistance Center in the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office. She moved into that position after

working for the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services as both a Child Protective Services Worker and an Adoptions Worker.

Robin is a standing member of the Talbot County Child Protection Multi-Disciplinary Team, the Family Recovery Court Advisory Committee, the Talbot County Citizen Review Panel, the Talbot County Foster Care Resource Development Committee, the Talbot Family Network, and the Maryland CASA Directors' Network.

Robin lives in Easton with her husband. They have four children.

Fayette Engstrom, M.D. (Voluntary Community Representative)

Fayette Engstrom, M.D. is a pediatrician who practiced in Talbot County until recently. Now "retired", she still is actively delivering pediatric care at the Children's Advocacy Center in Easton, part of a team that cares for children who have been sexually and physically abused, and in the school-based health centers in Dorchester County. She also participates on the board at Easton Day Care and the Advisory Board of the Children's Advocacy Center.

Fayette and her husband, Bob, live in Thread Haven in Easton. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Kathy Foster (Mandated Partner- Talbot County Health Department)

Currently serving as Vice-Chair of the TFN Board, Kathy Foster has worked in public health including mental health for the last 37 years. She is currently employed by the Talbot County Health Department as Health Officer. Previously at the Talbot County Health Department she was the Director of Community Health Nursing as well as Administrative Director of the Talbot County Mental Health Clinic. Prior to the health department she was the Instructor of Nursing and Staff Nurse for the Eastern Shore Hospital Center.

Kathy received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Maryland. She also received her Master's degree from the University of Maryland with a major in Nursing Administration and a minor in Mental Health Nursing. She completed her postgraduate work at the University of Maryland as a Psychiatric Clinical Specialist. She is a member of numerous community committees and boards.

Tim Haynes (Mandated Partner- Department of Juvenile Services)

Tim Haynes is a resident of St. Michaels and is employed as a supervisor with the Department of Juvenile Services. Tim has worked with children as a high school teacher, juvenile probation counselor and now supervisor, for 35 years. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's in Counseling. He has been active in youth sports as coach, referee and parent/fan. Tim has been a Board member with TFN and prior with the regional local management board from the inception of the program.

John Lehner (Mandated Partner- Talbot County Government)

John Lehner is the Talbot County Finance Director and serves as the TFN Board Treasurer. He has degrees from The Ohio State University (BS) and Kent State University (MPA), and has worked for Talbot County for the past three years. He also has public finance experience with the State of Rhode Island and the City of Clyde, Ohio. In Rhode Island, John worked in the Governor's Budget Office, where he served as the budget analyst for several human services agencies, including the Department of Health and the Department of Elderly Affairs. In Clyde, he was the City Finance Director. In addition to the TFN Board, he also serves on the Board of the Neighborhood Service Center and the Mid-Shore Mental Health Board. John lives in Easton with his wife and two children.

Joe Newell (Mandated Partner- Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems)

Joe Newell has a long work history involving service to non-profit companies and civic organizations. He has served as Director of Finance at Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care (DFMC) and Chief Financial Officer for Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems (MSMHS). Now serving as Executive Director of MSMHS, Joe is also Chair of the Audit Committee of DFMC and sits on numerous other Boards, including the Maryland Association of Non-Profits.

A life-long Shore resident, Joe now has homes in both Bethlehem, MD and the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He belongs to a number of civic organizations, including the Easton Elks Lodge where he served as Trustee and Chairman of the Trustees from 2004 to 2006.

Joe holds Bachelors degrees in both Finance and English from St. Andrews College in North Carolina. He completed studies for a Master of Business Administration degree with Regis University in October 2007.

Lou Ann Parson (Voluntary Community Representative)

Lou Ann Parson is president of BP Environmental, Inc. She and her husband, Paul, have one son, Jonathan, who attends St. Michaels High School. Mrs. Parson is very active in the SM schools. She was past president of SMES PTO and Twin Bridges / Bay Hundred Education Foundation. She is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Easton, director of Seaford Chamber of Commerce, and sits on the DNREC Brownfield Advisory Committee. Mrs. Parson previously taught in private schools in PA and NC.

Constance W. Pullen, LCSW-C (Voluntary Community Representative)

Connie Pullen is a clinical social worker and mental health advocate. She has been working as a psychotherapist with Mid-Shore families for the past 30 years. She has been active with the Mental Health Association for the past 30 years on the local and state levels. She is currently the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the Mental Health Association of Maryland.

Connie is married with three grown sons. She and her husband Michael enjoy sailing and traveling.

Dr. Karen B. Salmon (Mandated Partner- Talbot County Public Schools)

Dr. Karen B. Salmon was appointed Superintendent for Talbot County Public Schools in July 2003. Prior to that, Dr. Salmon was Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for six years.

She was born and raised in Harford County, Maryland and attended school there and in the Delaware schools. After graduating high school, she pursued a degree in Speech Communication at the University of Delaware, graduating in 1975. Dr. Salmon earned a Master's of Education, Special Education, in 1976 from the University of Maryland, College Park, and was awarded a Doctoral degree in Special Education/Administration from University of Maryland in 1986.

Dr. Salmon began her career as a teacher in the Caroline County school system in 1976 and continued in Caroline County as a teacher, Vocational Evaluator/Coordinator, and Vice Principal until 1988. In 1988, she came to Talbot County Public Schools as Coordinator of Services for Exceptional Children and attained the position of Assistant Superintendent for Instruction in 1997.

She is involved in various community activities, including Rotary, Talbot Mentors, and Talbot Family Network; Dr. Salmon lives with her husband John and her daughters in rural Talbot County.

April A. Sharp, LCSW-C (Mandated Partner- Department of Social Services)

April Sharp graduated from Salisbury State College with a BASW in 1978. She furthered her education with the completion of an MSW from University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1982. April Sharp is licensed as a LCSW-C.

She has been employed in the Social Services field as a social worker for 20 years. She has been employed as an administrator in the Social Services field for 20 years and has been employed at Talbot County Department of Social Services as the Assistant Director for Services since 1996.

Recently appointed by Secretary Donald as the Acting Director for Talbot County Department of Social Services, April continues to lead the staff in the delivery of high quality services for children and families.

Sherry Sutton (Voluntary Community Representative)

Sherry Sutton has worked with children and families in Talbot County for the last 30 years. She is currently the Principal of St. Michaels Elementary School. In the course of her career she was Executive Director of Easton Day Care Center, a Child Development Specialist for the MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Regional Manager of Child Care Licensing for the MD Department of Human Resources, and a teacher. Sherry and her husband Bill have raised two

children in Talbot County. Her community commitments have been serving on the Talbot County Children's Council, the Talbot County Department of Social Services Advisory Board and choir member of Christ Church, St. Michaels. Sherry is presently pursuing a Doctor of Educational Leadership degree from Wilmington College.

