



January 17, 2020

Prince George's County House Delegation
Low House Office Building
Bladen St. Annapolis, MD 21401

P.O. Box 149
Hyattsville, MD 20781
(301) 864-7095
Fax: (301) 864-7146
www.communitycrisis.org

Timothy Jansen
Chief Executive Officer
timj@ccsimd.org

Dear Delegates,

Founded in 1970, Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) was established to and has been serving individuals and families in crisis in Prince George's County 24 hours per day, every day. Community Crisis Services, Inc. operates a 24-hour call center answering 22 different hotlines providing valuable resources and crisis counseling to the residents of Prince George's County and beyond, and the Warm Nights Mobile Homeless Shelter program providing safe shelter 365 days per year.

Dial 2-1-1
for information and referral
for Health and Human
Services

Homeless Hotline
(301) 864-7140
1 (888) 731-0999

**Domestic Violence
Hotline**
(301) 731-1203

**Prince George's County
Suicide Crisis Line**
(301) 864-7130

**National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline**
1 (800) 273-TALK
(1 (800) 273-8255)
1 (800) SUICIDE
(1 (800) 784-2433)

The former Family Crisis Center (FCC) began serving those in domestic violence situations since 1981 with the opening of the Safe Passages Domestic Violence Shelter, the only domestic violence shelter in Prince George's County MD. FCC also operated the Domestic Violence Hotline Service and a Family Violence Intervention Clinic providing survivor support and abuser intervention programming. In 2018, Community Crisis Services acquired the Family Crisis Center and all of its critical programming.

Family Crisis Center has been the designated recipient of the Marriage License fees since the legislation was enacted. These funds provide critical support for the operations of the Safe Passages Shelter and the Domestic Violence Hotline services.

We are requesting to change the name of the agency in the legislation to reflect the acquisition. All of the former Family Crisis Center services have continued through the acquisition period and the programming and staffing have been maintained to ensure that these critical services are available for the residents of Prince George's County.

According to statistics, 33% of women and 25% of men have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. The most recent population statistic in Prince George's County is 912,756 so statistically this means that almost 529,400 individuals are survivors of some form of domestic violence. CCSI is dedicated to helping survivors in our community by offering shelter, financial assistance, resources and information.



Community Crisis Services Inc.'s mission is to provide compassionate crisis support through its hotline, safe shelter programs and information and referral services.

Prince George's County Maryland has the highest percentage of domestic violence incidents in the state. Over the past six years, roughly 21% of all homicides in Prince George's County Maryland were related to domestic violence.

Year	Total Homicides	DV-Related Homicides and Homicide/Suicide
2017	80	18
2016	98	20
2015	81	15
2014	54	20
2013	56	9
2012	64	14
Totals:	433	96

The Domestic Violence Hotline answered **over 4,500** calls alone in the last year. Over the past two years we've answered **over 350,000** calls and we continue to meet those in need 'where they are' through compassionate support. We hear daily the struggles of those who are in situational or emotional crisis. Last year **181** families fleeing domestic violence were able to find protection, security and most of all care at our Safe Passages Shelter, totaling **10,012** total bed nights.

Adhering to a strict code of ethical and accountability practices, CCSI was recertified in 2019 by the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organization's Seal of Excellence, received CONTACT USA accreditation as a crisis center and maintains an American Association of Suicidology accreditation. Our Domestic Violence Hotline became the first of its kind to receive Contact USA accreditation in the U.S.A.

We greatly appreciate your support and attention to this matter. We look forward to working together to continue to support the residents of Prince George's County.

Sincerely

Timothy Jansen
Chief Executive Officer