

Wicomico County

# **FIA APPRECIATION MONTH STRONGER TOGETHER 2023**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



It is tough to narrow down the accomplishments of the Wicomico County DSS FIA division to a single instance or event. This past year has been filled with ups and downs, wins and losses, frustrations, and triumphs. Through it all, though, the staff that comprise this division have persevered.

Perhaps that is the real accomplishment—perseverance. In the last year, the Department lost its longtime Director, and gained a new one. At the same time, FIA lost its longtime Assistant Director and (four months later) gained a new one; it lost 50% of its supervisory staff and over the course of several months, gained new ones. The division had a 25% vacancy rate at one point. It's faced challenges both internal and external, but through it all, our local FIA staff have persevered. Through all the turmoil of leadership change, the upheaval of staff departures, the uncertainty of new systems and new processes, these staff have risen to every challenge, answered every bell, and pushed themselves to provide the level of customer service the people of this County need and deserve. They've given extra time and effort where situations could not easily be resolved in the confines of a normal business day. They have appeared at numerous community events, taken applications for benefits in City parking lots, and answered questions about programs in grocery stores and on sidewalks and in churches. They have met the customers of this agency where they are.

It is easy to forget, at times, that a local department of social services is not meant to be a monolith or monument, but rather a living, fluid entity that moves into the empty spaces and fulfills the unmet needs of the community. We exist to support them in the ways they cannot support themselves. The FIA staff of Wicomico County DSS are a testament to that responsibility and conduct themselves in a way that exemplifies what it means to be servants of the public, even when it is not easy or convenient.

I appreciate the hard work the FIA staff put in, day in, day out. I appreciate the effort they give to help ensure the welfare and well-being of the residents of this County. I appreciate the contributions they make to the overall culture of the Wicomico County DSS. Most importantly, I appreciate their humanity, their grace, and their courage. I could not ask for a finer group of individuals to serve in this agency.

-Roy C. Brewington Jr., MPA, Director of Wicomico County DHS

Wicomico's FIA Staff can  
work hard and still laugh!

Managers wore blue  
attire to represent our  
unity. We know we are  
**STRONGER TOGETHER!**





“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”  
– Michael Jordan



“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

-Henry Ford

“It is literally true that you can  
succeed best and quickest by  
helping others to succeed.”

– *Napolean Hill*

**Thank you to our support staff!**



"Teamwork is the secret  
that make common  
people achieve  
uncommon results."

-Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha



“Alone we can  
do so little,  
together we can  
do so much.”  
–Helen Keller



“Everyone wants to be appreciated, so if you appreciate someone, don’t keep it a secret.”

– Mary Kay Ash

Thank you to all Wicomico FIA Staff. We are grateful for all your hard work, dedication, leadership and most of all your consistent and unwavering teamwork. Throughout all changes you have continually proven that we are **Stronger Together**.