

Michael Jones Elected President of MARFY for 2006

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Michael Jones, one of GUIDE's Assistant Directors and the organization's Corporate Secretary, was elected President of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) for the 2006 calendar year. MARFY, one of the professional membership organizations to which GUIDE belongs, is a non-profit association of child and family serving agencies in Maryland. Established in 1971, MARFY's membership is currently made up of sixty private agencies providing services through nearly two hundred programs across the State. Services are provided in group homes, residential treatment centers, shelters, alternative schools, day treatment programs, independent living programs, treatment foster homes, and intensive in-home services for children living with their families. MARFY's primary areas of activity are in the arenas of advocacy, training, best practices, and provider agency services. MARFY is a leader in advocating on behalf of children in Maryland's child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Mr. Jones commented, "I'm honored by the confidence the MARFY Board has placed in me, and I'm very excited about the opportunity to contribute in this way to the very valuable work that MARFY will be doing this next year. Some of my goals for MARFY for the coming year are to develop resources sufficient to effectively support the key projects and services that MARFY provides, continue working toward the establishment of the MARFY Training Academy, and taking concrete steps toward our goal of certification for child and youth care staff."



Mr. Jones is currently serving his second three-year term on the MARFY Board of Directors. Lending his support of Mr. Jones' upcoming role in MARFY, Jim McComb, MARFY's Executive Director notes "Mr. Jones has served on MARFY's Board since 2002. He has also chaired the Association's Committee on Workforce and Workplace Standards, an important part of MARFY's larger workforce development initiative." In his role on the Workforce Standards Committee particularly, Mr. Jones has been working to increase the credentialing standards for residential childcare personnel, and to develop a formalized and uniform curriculum for these workers who form the backbone of many of the programs operated by MARFY member agencies.

Asked about Mr. Jones' election to the MARFY position, Scott Birdsong, GUIDE's Executive Director and President, stated, "we all feel that this is both quite an honor, and says a lot about Michael and GUIDE's respect within the community of child and youth service agencies throughout the State. MARFY serves as a unifying voice for youth and family service organizations all over Maryland, and I'm quite sure that Michael will be able to contribute immensely to the Association's progress this next year."