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STTAR CENTER TO CLOSE OFFICES

The STTAR Center, Inc., which serves victims of sexual abuse and other trauma, will have closed its offices in Howard and Montgomery County by the end of the year, according to Board of Directors Chair Lisa Bailey.

“Many non-profit agencies are facing pressures during these difficult economic times. The STTAR Center is not alone in suffering shortfalls in revenue,” Bailey said. “We have taken a number of steps to remedy our financial situation, but ultimately the board has concluded that it is not possible to keep the offices open,” she added.

In the past couple of years, the Columbia-based non-profit has added services and increased reach. It opened offices in Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties and broadened its mission to include victims of psychological trauma of all sorts, rather than only sexual assault.

“We wanted to expand services in the critical area of psychological trauma,” Bailey said, “but we were unable to sustain our operations in this tight economy.”

In the past few months, STTAR has closed its Anne Arundel offices, consolidated services, and reduced staffing. Executive Director L. Jeannie Dillingham left last month after six years at the non-profit.

“Our first concern is now and has always been the health and well-being of the people we serve,” Bailey said. “All clients will be responsibly transitioned to appropriate therapeutic care,” she added.

New callers to the STTAR Center will be referred to other service providers.

In addition, Bailey noted, funders have been contacted and are working with STTAR to explore a variety of options with regard to future service to people who are victims of sexual assault and other trauma.

“A lot of dedicated people are working to maintain care for our clients,” Bailey concluded.