

# GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 19, 2013

Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room

## ATTENDEES

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, Chair, Patricia E. Arriaza, Kisha A. Brown, L. Tracey Brown, Tammy Brown, Diana Cheng on behalf of Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, Michaele Cohen, Jeanne Cooper on behalf of Secretary Theodore Dallas, Jessica Dickerson on behalf of Secretary Sam Abed, Julie Drake on behalf of Richard Barth, Jodi Finkelstein, Lisae C. Jordan on behalf of Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Dorothy Lennig, Lisa Nitsch, Captain Brian Reider on behalf of Colonel Marcus L. Brown, Anne Sheridan, Kara Shawyer on behalf of Senator Bryan Simonaire, and Ben Wolff on behalf of Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown

**COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** G. Antonio Arenas, Secretary Gary Maynard, Scott G. Patterson, Adam Rosenberg, Vicki A. Sadehvandi, David Shultie, Joan Stine, Delegate Cathy Vitale, and Jeanne Yeager

**STAFF:** Nakita Long, Bill Harper, and Justice Schisler

**GUESTS:** Debbie Feinstein, Karen Payne, Akeda Pearson, Beth Volk, and Dave Wolinski

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:** Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: To approve Minutes of April 29, 2013 Council Meeting.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

## MARYLAND COURT RULE 1-322.1 – EXCLUSION OF PERSONAL IDENTIFIER INFORMATION IN COURT FILINGS

- ❖ As a result of Maryland Courts transition to electronic filing and in an effort to minimize identity theft, Maryland Court Rule 1-322.1 removed personal identifier information from court records effective July 1, 2013. This included removing the date of birth from protective orders.
- ❖ The removal of birth dates from petitions for protective orders would render VINE Protective Order (VPO) ineffective as a date of birth is required for law enforcement to update METERS, which is the direct interface that transports information to the VPO system.
- ❖ Dorothy Lennig, House of Ruth Maryland and Tammy Brown, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention met with the Rules Committee to propose an amendment to the Rule wherein date of birth would not be eliminated from protective orders hence affecting VPO.
- ❖ The Court of Appeals held a hearing on July 2, 2013 and amended Rule 1-322.1. The amended Rule no longer includes date of birth as personal identifier information that filers must exclude from court filings.
- ❖ A copy of the Rules Order was circulated for all members to review and attached to these minutes.

## WORKGROUPS

### ❖ VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER

#### ○ VPO Quarterly Report

- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year, Maryland averaged 288 registrations and 920 notifications. This is a 2.5% increase in registrations from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (865: 845).
  - In April 2013, 9% of the total number of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.

- In May 2013, 7% of the total number of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
    - In June 2013, 10% of the total number of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
  - Dorothy Lennig advised members of the Council that the number of registrations for VPO notification continue to be quite low and in order to continue to justify the costs of the service, the number of registrations must increase. She encouraged everyone to use the service and convey to their staff and co-workers the importance of utilizing VPO.
  - A discussion about increasing the use VPO occurred. Ideas included: a media blitz and additional training,
  - Michael Cohen advised that she would have VPO material placed on the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence's (MNADV) website.
  - Lisae Jordan advised that she would provide material to Directors at the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault's (MCASA) Director's meeting next Tuesday.
- **Court Requirements (Site Visit)**
    - In response to the Family Violence Council Coordinator, Nakita Long's letter to District and Circuit Court Clerks reminding them of their requirement to provide VPO brochures as mandated by law, she has received correspondence from several Court Clerks acknowledging that they are distributing brochures. However, during a recent visit to Baltimore County District Court, Ms. Long was advised by a front desk Clerk, that the Court's supply of brochures was low and that the brochures were only distributed upon request. Ms. Long reiterated the requirement of the law as it relates to providing notification to petitioners.
    - Ms. Long will continue to do follow-up visits at Maryland Courts to ensure that brochures are being distributed as required.
  - **VPO Training**
    - Trainers from Appriss held a VINE Protective Order training at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (PCTC) for victim service providers and law enforcement officials in mid-May. Approximately 150 victim service providers and law enforcement personnel were in attendance.
    - Nakita Long provided training to staff members at the Mid Shore Council on Family Violence. She will continue to reach out to victim service providers to provide training on VPO. She plans to attend programs in Prince George's and Montgomery counties in early August.
    - Webinar training was also discussed. Ms. Long will look into the feasibility.
  - **VPO Issues**
    - On two occasions this past month, Nakita Long was informed that a respondent had been served in court, however VPO showed no service. After contacting the Baltimore City Police Department, service was entered into METERS and VPO was updated. Ms. Long reminded personnel at the Baltimore City Police Department of the law requiring that service be entered into METERS within 2 hours after service.
  - **Brochures**
    - VPO Brochures are being updated. New brochures will be distributed once they are received at GOCCP.

## ❖ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PRESENCE OF A CHILD**

- **Workgroup Status**
  - The Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child Workgroup was divided into two subgroups (Criminal Justice and Schools) to more effectively focus on gaps in services and develop recommendations and best practices.
  - Julie Drake provided the group with an update of the current status of the Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child workgroup. She advised that a very preliminary draft

protocol has been developed that could be used when law enforcement arrives at the scene for a domestic violence incident. The draft protocol was developed to address concerns for the child and respect the adult victim's autonomy. The protocol is divided into three tiers which are based on the child's exposure to domestic violence and the severity of the incident. The draft protocol is as follows:

- Tier I
  - Felony cases
  - Direct witness to an assault with an injury
  - Strangulation
- Response to Tier I
  - Immediate team approach (mobile crisis response)
  - Forensic Interview within 24 hours
  - Trauma assessment and referral
  - Brochure or card and referral list
  - Trained police response
- Tier II
  - Screen in LAP
  - Repeat calls (2 or more prior domestic violence calls)
  - Assault with injury not witnessed by child
  - Gut check for child
- Response to Tier II
  - Police referral to social worker/victim advocate (MNADV LAP model)
  - Follow-up by social worker/victim advocate (Baltimore City LAP model)
  - Brochure or card and referral list
  - Trained police response
- Tier III
  - Any other domestic violence case
- Response to Tier III
  - Brochure or card and referral list
  - Trained police response
- In addition to providing victims with a brochure or card as a response for all tiers, Lisa Nitsch, House of Ruth Maryland, suggested that a brochure or one-page handout also be crafted to be provided to abusers regarding the impact that their violence may have on their child.
  - Lisa Nitsch will reach out to members of MAIC with respect to developing a brochure or one-page handout for perpetrators. The hope is that this can serve as an intervention strategy and prompt them to seek help.
- Due to COMAR Regulations and the intrinsic nature of the school system, the School subgroup, chaired by Joan Stine, first had to identify key players and therefore have not yet begun to make recommendations.
- Key players have now been identified within the school system and the Criminal Justice Subgroup and School subgroup will begin to meet together in order to develop one effective protocol.
- **Vote**
  - Because Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child was selected as a focus topic for FY 2013 and recommendations and/or a protocol is still in its preliminary stages, a vote was held to decide to continue this topic into FY 2014.
  - After a Council Vote, it was unanimously decided to continue Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child as a focus group topic for FY 2014.

❖ **NEW FOCUS TOPIC/VOTE**

- As part of the Council's new structure to focus on two to three key areas of family violence policy, a vote was held to select a new focus topic. The following topics were suggested, information was provided and a vote was held.
  - ***Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community***
    - Maryland is the first in the nation to pass marriage rights via ballot.
    - A workgroup could specifically focus on the impact of domestic violence on the LGBT Community.
      - Where to refer LGBT domestic violence victims
      - Training – what is different from heterosexual domestic violence victims?
    - Other organizations are nationally doing this work.
  - ***Abusers Not Meeting the Conditions of Court Orders Without Consequence***
    - Data shows that court sanctions for offenders who fail to comply with court orders increase the likelihood that an offender will comply with the order.
    - Abusers who do not meet the conditions of court orders without consequence is a huge problem for many clients in abuser intervention programs.
    - Some abusers have their probation expire while in the program and others face almost zero consequence when their cases are closed.
    - A workgroup could focus on best practices for having consistent and swift sanctions imposed for offenders who do not meet the conditions of court orders.
      - Provide intervention information to heighten awareness.
  - ***Best Practices for Family Justice Centers***
    - The Montgomery County Family Justice Center is a collaboration of agencies, co-located within one space, providing services for families impacted by domestic violence.
      - System reduces secondary trauma
    - A workgroup could specifically focus on creating best practices for Family Justice Centers statewide with Montgomery County serving as a model for other jurisdictions
  - ***Teen Dating Violence***
    - Montgomery County has a teen dating violence curriculum in schools as part of its regular curriculum. There has also been a proposal to extend the curriculum to private schools.
      - Choose Respect is targeted toward County middle and high school students and helps teenagers avoid abusive dating relationships.
    - A workgroup could determine what other counties around the State are doing with respect to education and prevention of dating violence, including healthy relationship programs; and educate parents and educators about teen dating violence.
- After a Council vote, Abusers Not Meeting the Conditions of Court Orders without Consequence was selected as the new focus topic for FY 2014.
  - Lisa Nitsch agreed to serve as Chair of this workgroup.
  - Nakita Long will forward an email to Council members to begin to establish the workgroup committee.

❖ **ABUSER INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AIP) CERTIFICATION (2013)**

- Applications for Abuser Intervention Program Certification for 2013 were due on May 31, 2013.
- Twenty-six applications were submitted, which included 23 applications for re-certification and three new applications.
- Twenty-two applications were approved for certification for 2013, two applications are pending approval based on additional documentation being provided by August 9, and two applications were denied certification.

- The list of Certified Abuser Intervention Programs will be updated and provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts for inclusion into the Judges Benchbook by August 15, 2013.

## ❖ OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### ○ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Tea, Tastings and Testimonials

- Akeda Pearson, founder of “3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Tea, Tastings and Testimonials” advised that she developed this idea to promote conversation to bring about healing and spark conversation about domestic violence which includes the following: .
  - Facilitate educational presentations for attendees to gain knowledge
    - Guests have included representatives from Senator Barbara Mikulski’s Affordable Care Act Team, Lieutenant Governor’s Office, Mayor’s Office, Catholic Charities, TurnAround, Inc., House of Ruth Maryland, Women’s Prison Ministry and survivors of domestic violence.
  - Distribute information about local, state and national resources
  - Encourage sharing of information
    - Resource tables are free and open to the public
  - Provide an atmosphere of rich history with delicious tastings.

### ○ RESOURCE SIGNS

- A discussion was held with respect to having signs placed in Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport to provide victims of domestic violence with resource information.
- Similar information signs can be found in airports and other public areas throughout the county.
- Tammy Brown will work with Lisa Jordan on bringing this to the attention of the Human Trafficking Task Force.

### ○ UPCOMING TRAININGS

- **Domestic Violence and Safety Planning:** July 31, 2013 at 9:30 AM in Prince George’s County. Presented by Erin Boguski of the MNADV. For more information, visit <http://mnadv.org/events/statewide-calendar/>.
- **Trauma, Substance Abuse and DV Training:** August 6, 2013 at 9:30 AM in Prince George’s County. Dr. Bent-Goodley, Howard University, will present. For more information, visit <http://mnadv.org/events/statewide-calendar/>.
- **Comprehensive Intimate Partner Violence Training:** September 17, 18, and 19, 2013 from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM each day. The cost is \$250/person. 16 Social Work CEUs are included with the cost. For more information visit <http://www.hruth.org/IPVtraining.asp>.

## ❖ NEXT STEPS

- Nakita Long will continue to do follow-up visits at the Court to ensure that brochures are being distributed as required.
- Nakita Long will continue to reach out to victim service providers to provide training on VPO.
- Nakita Long will provide Lisa Jordan with VPO information to distribute at the MCASA’s Directors meeting on July 23, 2013
- Nakita Long will provide Michael Cohen with VPO information for inclusion on MNADV’s website.
- Nakita Long and Lisa Nitsch will reach out to individuals to form a productive workgroup for Abusers Not Meeting the Conditions of Court Orders without Consequence.
- Lisa Nitsch will contact members of MAIC to see if they would be willing to take on the task of developing a brochure or one-page handout for perpetrators regarding the impact their violence may have on their child.

- Tammy Brown will work with Lisae Jordan and the Human Task Force with respect to having resource signs placed throughout BWI Airport.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 11:41 AM

The next Council meeting will be held  
October, 2013 (date to be determined)  
Heritage Office Complex, Chesapeake Room  
Annapolis, Maryland