

**GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, April 25, 2014**  
**Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room**

**ATTENDEES**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracey Brown, Michael Cohen, Jeanne D. Cooper on behalf of Secretary Theodore Dallas, Kieran Dowdy on behalf of Secretary Gregg Hershberger, Julie Drake on behalf of Richard Barth, Rob Corraoi for Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, Dorothy Lennig, Christina Mills, John McGinnis, Lisa Nitsch, Jessica Powers-Haven on behalf of Lisae C. Jordan, Brian Reider on behalf of Colonel Marcus L. Brown, Justice Schisler on behalf of Tammy Brown, David Shultie, and Delegate Cathy Vitale.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Secretary Sam Abed, Antonio Arenas, Kisha Brown, Marcus Brown, Jessica Dickerson, Ellen Grunden, Lillian Lowery, Scott G. Patterson, Adam Rosenberg, Manuel Ruiz, Laure Ruth, Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, Anne Sheridan, Senator Bryan Simonarie, Joan Stine, Benjamin Stutz, Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, and Jeanne M. Yeager.

**STAFF:** Lashonde Beasley and Nakita Long

**GUESTS:** Glenda F. Hodges, Karen Payne and Grace Santo

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- ❖ Motion: To approve Minutes of January 30, 2014 Council Meeting.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

**LEGISLATION**

- ❖ Attorney General Gansler thanked everyone for his or her participation in this year's Legislative Session.
  - Michael Cohen and Dorothy Lennig provided an update of the legislative bills that were successful this year.
    - SB 333 and SB 28/HB 307 and HB 333 - Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Burden of Proof
      - This bill changes the burden of proof for those seeking final protective orders and peace orders from “clear and convincing evidence” to “preponderance of the evidence.”
    - SB 334/HB 309 - Family Law- Domestic Violence – Permanent Final Protective Orders
      - This bill added the crime of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault to the list of enumerated crimes.
      - This bill altered the language from “served” to “sentenced” meaning the respondent is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least five years, but must serve at least 12 months rather than five years.
    - SB 337 – Criminal Law – Crimes Committed in the Presence of a Minor **HB 306/SB 337 was appended to match HB 185/SB683. HB 306 and SB 337 PASSED in the House and Senate as amended.**
      - This bill will enhance the penalty for criminal defendants who are convicted of domestically related crimes in the presence of a minor.

- SB 434/HB 647—Peace Orders and Protective Orders—Extensions
  - This bill clarifies that during the term of a peace or protective order, when the practitioner files for an extension, the peace or protective order will remain in effect until the court has held a hearing on the extension of the peace or protective order.
- HB 185 - Crimes - Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of a Minor – Penalties
  - This bill enhances the penalty for persons who commit a crime of violence in a residence when the person knows or reasonably should have known that a minor was within sight or hearing of the crime.
- HB 397 – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Consent Orders – Shielding
  - This bill authorizes a respondent who consents to the entry of peace or protective order to file a request to shield court records.
- SB369/HB352 – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Penalties – Second or Subsequent Offenses
  - This bill would allow enhanced penalties for the violation of a peace or protective order when the defendant has been previously convicted of a peace or protective order.
- SB 790- Health Insurance – Communications Between Carriers and Enrollees- Conformity with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)
- SB818/559- State Government – Human Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program

## **WORKGROUPS**

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

- Criminal Justice Subgroup
  - Julie Drake provided the Council with an update of the Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child Workgroup, and minutes workgroup were provided.
  - The subgroup is working on developing a trained police response when children are witnesses to domestic violence.
  - Ms. Drake advised that focus groups will be conducted for the “Fighting in the Home: Is Your Child Being Affected” brochure. The Workgroup developed a list questions for the focus group.
  - Council Members were provided with a draft copy of the brochure and it was suggested the version date be added to the brochure.
- School Subgroup
  - Joan Stine was unable to attend the meeting; however, Julie Drake updated the Council on the subgroup. Julie Drake advised that recommendations for the school subgroup are almost complete. Questions in the subgroup arose pertaining to whether or not law enforcement can share information with a child’s school when the child is a witness of domestic violence.
  - The group is in the developmental stage of creating a resource/referral list of services in which children can be referred for treatment.

### **❖ VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER (VPO)**

- **VPO Quarterly Report**
  - During the first quarter of 2014, there were 7,604 protective orders issued. There were 977 registrations against those orders and 11,675 notifications were made to registrants, a 12.8% registration rate. This is a 3% increase in registrations from 2013. A handout on the numbers of protective orders, registrations, and notifications was provided.

- Nakita Long, the Family Violence Council Coordinator, advised the group that a comparison between VINE and VPO cannot be done because VPO is more confidential requiring the case number, respondents name, jurisdiction, etc. whereas VINE is a public site and therefore anyone can register so there would be significantly more people registered for one incarcerated individual than would be for the service of one respondent.

- **VPO Training**

- In an effort to increase VPO awareness and registrations, Nakita Long and Lashonde Beasley have conducted several VPO trainings throughout the state.
  - As of April 15, 2014, eight VPO trainings and a webinar have been conducted to increase VPO awareness and registration. Approximately 215 people were trained.

- **VPO Issues**

- **Prince George's County**

- Issue: Manpower – The County has one clerk who is entering all of the temporary protective orders and one who is entering all of the final protective orders for the jurisdiction.
  - Resolution: Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) were discussed as an alternative. Nakita advised that there is a capability of having officers fill out the VPO form on the in-car computer or Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) with time of service. This service is not yet provided in Prince George's so they will need to discuss costs and practicality with their vendor.
- Nakita Long advised that GOCCP will follow-up on the status of the MDT's.

- **VPO Brochures**

- The VPO brochure was reviewed, and updated information for the brochure was provided.
- Michael Cohen will provide updated program contact information.

- ❖ **ABUSERS NOT MEETING THE CONDITIONS OF COURT ORDERS**

- Lisa Nitsch provided the Council with an update for the Workgroup. Minutes from the Workgroup were provided.
- Lisa Nitsch advised that the workgroup developed research questions. The research questions were provided to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to determine the research questions that are currently in the Offender Case Management System (OCMS) that address what happens to abusers when they fail to meet the conditions of a court order, and to determine if additional research questions can be added to the OCMS. The Council was advised that Ernest Eley, Jr. from DPSCS would provide an updated to the workgroup at the next workgroup meeting.
- The next workgroup meeting will take place on Monday, May 12 at 10:00 AM at the House of Ruth, Maryland.

- ❖ **ABUSER INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AIP)**

- **AIP Certification/Timeline**

- Lashonde advised that AIP applications are due to GOCCP by Friday, May 30, 2014, and that applications will be reviewed during the month of June for completeness. Applicants will receive a letter of acceptance or denial during the month of July. The final list of certified AIP's will be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts by August.

- **AIP Training**
  - The House of Ruth’s “Working with Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence” is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. Conditional certification will be offered to those AIP agencies that are registered for the training.
  - Lashonde Beasley advised the group that the Family and Children’s Services of Central Maryland and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) have inquired about providing Intimate Partner Violence Training and Certification.
- After discussion, it was decided to allow the Family and Children’s Services of Center Maryland and MNADV to provide Intimate Partner Violence Training.
- Grace Santo, from Congruent Counseling Services, LLC in Montgomery County, voiced concerns regarding the AIP guidelines, the local Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee (DVCC) in Montgomery County, and the inability to collaborate with other agencies within Montgomery County to obtain a letter of support for AIP certification. GOCCP and Montgomery County staff agreed to meet with Ms. Santo following the meeting to discuss her concerns.
- Lisa Nitsch recommended that guidelines be developed to hold agencies providing Intimate Partner Violence Training Certification accountable. It was suggested that this topic be considered for review by the FVC for the FY 2015 workgroup topics.

**FVC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

- ❖ Akeda Person is awaiting confirmation of her appointment to the Council. Tracy Brown is awaiting reappointment. At this time, there is only one Senate seat available.

**OLD/ NEW BUSINESS**

- ❖ FVC members and guests were reminded to contact Lashonde Beasley if they encounter any matters pertaining to VPO, AIP, or the FVC as Nakita Long will be out on maternity leave until August.

**NEXT STEPS**

- ❖ Lashonde Beasley will continue to reach out to victim service providers to provide training on VPO.
- ❖ Lashonde Beasley will follow-up on the MTD’s in Prince George’s County.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:30 AM**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next Council meeting will be held  
July, 2014 (date to be determined)

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The Domestic Violence in the Presence of Child  
Law Enforcement Subgroup meeting will be held

May 21, 2014 @ 2:00 PM

GOCCP

Towson, MD

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The Abusers Not Meeting the Conditions of Court Orders

Workgroup meeting will be held

May 12, 2014 @ 10:00 AM

House of Ruth Maryland

Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD