

GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 2, 2014
Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room

ATTENDEES

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Arriaza for Anne Sheridan, Kisha Brown, Tracey Brown, Michaele Cohen, Jeanne D. Cooper on behalf of Secretary Theodore Dallas, Jessica Dickerson on behalf of Secretary Sam Abed, Kieran Dowdy on behalf of Secretary Gregg Hershberger, Julie Drake on behalf of Richard Barth, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, Dorothy Lennig, John McGinnis, Lisa Nitsch, Adam Rosenberg, Manuel Ruiz, Justice Schisler on behalf of Tammy Brown, Ben Wolf on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Antonio Arenas, Marcus Brown, Ellen Grunden, Lisae C. Jordan, Lillian Lowery, Christina Mills, Scott G. Patterson, Laure Ruth, Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, David Shultie, Senator Bryan Simonaire, Joan Stine, Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, and Jeanne M. Yeager, and Delegate Cathy Vitale

STAFF: Lashonde Beasley

GUESTS: Keyandra Brisco and George McBride

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 April 25, 2014 Council Meeting.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ Adam Rosenberg provided the workgroup with a presentation on the “Implementation of the Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child-Enhanced Penalty Law.”
 - A PowerPoint presentation handout entitled “Crimes of Violence in the Presence of Minors: Discussion on Implementation of House Bill 306” and a copy of “HB 306 Crimes – Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of a Minor – Penalties” was provided.
 - Mr. Rosenberg advised of notable issues and concerns; the penalties that offenders face if charged with this crime; the benefit of Child Advocacy Centers; and additional implications.
 - Mr. Rosenberg noted that there is an added burden of proof to show that a child saw or heard the domestic violence occurring in the home, and that additional support and services are needed to address children that have witnessed violence in their home.

WORKGROUPS

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

- Criminal Justice Subgroup
 - Julie Drake provided the Council with the final report for the Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child Workgroup, and minutes from the workgroup were provided.
 - Ms. Drake advised of the accomplishments and recommendations of the Criminal Justice workgroup. The group developed a draft of a Trained Police Response when police respond to a call for service and children are present. The Trained Police Response consists of three (3) tiers depending on the severity of the case. For the Trained Police

Response, the workgroup has also worked on developing a model policy for the Trained Police Response. Ms. Drake informed the Council that the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven, Connecticut is focusing on a similar project of developing a protocol outlining how law enforcement responds to a domestic violence call and a child is present. The workgroup recommends that the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), in conjunction with stakeholders from the Governor's Family Violence Council (FVC), finalize the Trained Police Response, that GOCCP disseminate the policy, support the implementation of the policy, and promote the usage of the policy. The workgroup recommended that funding be identified for the production and dissemination of the model policy. It is further recommended that GOCCP and the FVC coordinate with the Yale Child Study Center before implementing the finalized model policy.

- Ms. Drake notified the Council that the workgroup developed a brochure "Fighting in the Home: Is Your Child Being Affected?" Two focus groups for the brochure were conducted with victims of domestic violence. Based on the responses received, the participants found that the brochure was helpful, and made suggestions on how to improve the brochure and where it should be distributed. The focus groups also recommended that a card with information on where to obtain services be provided instead of a brochure. The workgroup recommends that GOCCP, in conjunction with stakeholders of the FVC, revise the draft brochure based on the responses from the focus group. It is also recommended that funding be identified for the distribution of the brochure.
- Ms. Drake also recommended that this workgroup topic be continued to finalize the efforts described above: the Trained Police Response and the "Fighting in the Home: Is Your Child Being Affected?" brochure.
- School Subgroup
 - Joan Stine was unable to attend the meeting; however, Ms. Drake provided the recommendations of the subgroup.
 - Ms. Drake advised that the subgroup focused on the identification of resources for children who have witnessed domestic violence, and on the possibility of law enforcement notifying the school system when a child has witnessed domestic violence. Ms. Drake advised the group that currently there are no laws that would prevent law enforcement from sharing information with school personnel when a child has witnessed domestic violence; however, law enforcement does not have the resources to notify the school system when a child witnesses domestic violence in the home, and is skeptical about sharing the information since cases may involve open investigations. It is the recommendation of the workgroup that GOCCP work with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) to strengthen training on the topic of the effects of domestic violence on children and sensitivity training to school personnel including School Resource Officers (SROs). The workgroup also recommends that the effects of domestic violence on children be presented at various conferences including the Annual Child Abuse Suicide Prevention Conference.
 - Ms. Drake informed the Council that no directory of services currently exists to refer children who have witnessed domestic violence. As a result, the workgroup recommends that services be identified for children that witness domestic violence.

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

- Lisa Nitsch and Dorothy Lennig provided the group with an overview of the workgroup and the recommendations of the workgroup.
- Ms. Nitsch advised the group that the initial purpose of the workgroup was to determine what happens to abusers when they fail to meet the conditions of court orders; however, the workgroup determined that it must first identify what the consequences are when abusers fail to meet the conditions of court orders. The focus of the workgroup shifted to gathering the necessary data needed to determine what happens to abusers when they fail to satisfy the conditions of court orders. The workgroup identified the Department of Public Safety and Community Supervision (DPSCS) as the agency in which to track what happens to abusers when they fail to meet the conditions of court orders. The workgroup developed data fields that they requested be captured in the DPSCS's Offender Management System (OCMS). The data fields were provided to DPSCS. According to Mrs. Lennig, DPSCS has submitted almost all of the elements the workgroup requested be added into the OCMS, and DPSCS is working on the specifications. DPSCS will work on the production and testing of the data fields in the OCMS. It is expected that the updates to the OCMS containing the data fields will be implemented by October 2014.
- Mrs. Lennig advised that the workgroup recommended that they meet once the updates to the OCMS with the requested data fields are complete. It was mentioned that Montgomery County tracks what happens to abusers when they fail to satisfy the conditions of court orders as they have a specialized unit to do so; however, the outcomes vary on what happens to the abusers.

❖ **VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER (VPO)**

○ **VPO Quarterly Report**

- During the second quarter of 2014, there were 10,214 protective orders issued. There were 1,156 registrations against those orders and 3,480 notifications were made to registrants,. This is an 11% registration rate against the protective orders in the second quarter. A handout on the numbers of protective orders, registrations, and notifications was provided.

○ **VPO Training**

- In an effort to increase VPO awareness and registrations, Lashonde Beasley and Nakita Long have conducted several VPO trainings throughout the state. A handout on the number of trainings that have been conducted thus far this year and the number of individuals that attended the training was provided.
 - As of July 1, 2014, fourteen VPO trainings and two webinars have been conducted to increase VPO awareness and registration. Approximately 290 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 Terminals (MDT) were discussed as an alternative. Nakita advised at previous Council meetings 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.

- Lashonde Beasley informed the Council that she will continue to follow-up on the status of the MDT's.

- **VPO Brochures**

- Ms. Beasley advised that the changes that were identified at the April Council meeting were sent to Appriss and that GOCCP is awaiting the proof of the VPO brochure with the changes. Ms. Beasley also advised the VPO brochures would be ordered by July 3, 2014.

- ❖ **NEW WORKGROUPS FOR FY 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

- Ms. Beasley advised of the responses received for the potential workgroup topics for the FY 2015 Legislative Session: Best Practices for Family Justice Centers, Teen Dating Violence, Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child-DSS Entry Point, and Abusers Intervention Program Certification & Audit Process Review. An overview and the goal(s) of the potential topics were discussed.
 - After discussion, it was decided to exclude Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child-DSS Entry Point as one of the potential workgroup topics.
 - A vote on the remaining potential workgroup topics was taken. The two topics with the highest number of votes and therefore the workgroup topics for this year's Legislative Session are as follows:
 - Best Practices for Family Justice Centers
 - Abusers Intervention Program Certification & Audit Review Process
 - Chairs for the workgroups were identified.
 - Best Practice for Family Justice Centers: Jodi Finkelstein, and Adam Rosenberg.
 - Abuser Intervention Program Certification & Audit Process Review: John McGinnis, Lisa Nitsch, and Manuel Ruiz.

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

- **AIP Certification/Timeline**

- Ms. Beasley advised that eight AIP applications were received and that a review of the applications was held in June. A list of the applications, which included the certification recommendation for each application, was provided. Applicants will receive a letter of acceptance or denial during the month of July and the final list of certified AIP's will be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts in August.

FVC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- An updated Council Membership list was provided. It was noted that the numbering of the members were not on chronological order.
- Ms. Beasley notified the Council that confirmation was received for Akeda Person's appointment to the Council, and that confirmation for reappointment to the Council is pending for Tracy Brown and Manuel Ruiz. At this time, there is only one Senate seat available.

OLD/ NEW BUSINESS

- Jodi Finkelstein advised that she is still working on getting posters posted in the restrooms at BWI regarding domestic violence and human trafficking.

NEXT STEPS

- Ms. Beasley will continue to reach out to victim service providers to provide training on VPO.
- Ms. Beasley will follow-up on the MTD's in Prince George's County.
- GOCCP will continue the work of the Abusers Not Meeting the Condition of Court Orders.

- Ms. Drake will continue the efforts of the Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child workgroup.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:30 AM

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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