

GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room

ATTENDEES

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Arriaza on behalf of Anne Sheridan, Kisha A. Brown, Michaele Cohen, Kara Contino on behalf of Senator Bryan Simonaire, Kieran Dowdy on behalf of Secretary Gregg Hershberger, Julie Drake on behalf of Richard Barth, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, Deena Hausner on behalf of Dorothy Lennig, Lisa Jordan on behalf of Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, John McGinnis, Akeda Pearson, Manuel Ruiz, Justice Schisler on behalf of Tammy Brown, David Shultie, Joan Stine, and Benjamin Stutz on behalf of Lt. Governor Anthony Brown.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Secretary Sam Abed, Colonel Marcus Brown, Secretary Theodore Dallas, Scott G. Patterson, Adam Rosenberg, Manuel Ruiz, Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, and Jeanne M. Yeager.

STAFF: Lashonde Beasley, Nakita Long, and Amanda Rodriguez.

GUESTS: Dan Coleman and Karen Payne.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: Approve the Minutes of July 2, 2014 with the following amendment:
 - The group developed a draft crime scene response when police respond to a call for service and children and present.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

- ❖ With the impending election, the Council recognized that this meeting would be Attorney General Gansler's last meeting serving as Chair. They acknowledged his commitment to the Council and his long standing dedication to ending domestic violence by presenting him with a plaque and taking up a collection to make a donation in his name to No More, a national domestic violence agency.

GOVERNING FOR RESULTS/VAWA EVENT:

- ❖ Governor Martin O'Malley will be visiting the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County on October 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM as part of the 'Governing for Results' series, a statewide initiative to promote the Administration's strategic goals which focuses on combating domestic violence in Maryland. He will announce this year's Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) award recipients. Council members were invited to attend.

GOCCP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY:

- ❖ Amanda Rodriguez, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Policy Manager with GOCCP introduced herself to the Council and advised that she will be working closely with Nakita Long and the Family Violence Council.

LEGISLATION:

- ❖ HB 397 – Peace and Protective Orders – Consent Orders - Shielding

- This legislation establishes a procedure for shielding peace and protective consent orders on the internet after they have expired.
- GOCCP is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to establish a regulation process whereby comprehensive domestic violence agencies would have access to shielded protective order information.
- Upon completion, language will be circulated and posted for public comment.
- ❖ 2015 Proposed Legislation
 - Given that after the election this year, there will be a substantial change in legislatures, Council members suggested getting to know the new legislatures and discussed the following for 2015:
 - Reintroducing the dating violence bill which would move dating violence and sexual assault out of the peace order statute and into the protective order statute;
 - Introducing more human trafficking legislation;
 - Increasing access to sexual assault forensic exams;
 - Expansion of Family Justice Centers;
 - Making Maryland law consistent with federal law.
 - Council members were encouraged to attend the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Fall Conference to hear legislative proposals to help shape the legislative agenda for 2015.

WORKGROUP:

- ❖ Best Practices – Family Justice Centers
 - The workgroup members met on September 10, 2014 to establish the Mission of the group and identify the components necessary to begin developing best practices for family justice centers.
 - Mission: The purpose of this workgroup is to establish recommendations for Best Practices and Alternatives for Family Justice Centers Statewide. The goal is to develop a comprehensive plan that, if implemented, will aid counties throughout Maryland in developing Family Justice Centers that make victims safer, hold offenders accountable and provide wrap around services, which includes mental health and long-term support for victims and their families through collaboration and coordinated services.
 - Laure Duker, Founder, Court Watch Montgomery, provided the group with information regarding child exchange and visitation centers in Montgomery County.
 - Workgroup members will establish a specific timeline and identify goals and objectives at the next meeting which is scheduled for October 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Howard County Library – Miller Branch, Patapsco Room, 9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, Maryland.
- ❖ AIP Certification and Audit Process Review
 - The workgroup members met on September 16, 2014 to establish the Mission of the group and develop a preliminary plan to begin amending the AIP certification and audit process.
 - Mission: The purpose of this workgroup is to identify barriers that hinder abuser intervention programs from meeting the Operational Guidelines for Abuser Intervention Programs as set forth by the Governor’s Family Violence Council. The goal is to ensure that certified abuser intervention programs meet the Guidelines in practice and to develop a protocol for certified programs that are not in compliance with the Guidelines.
 - A survey was forwarded to Executive Directors and direct service providers of all certified AIPs in Maryland to begin identifying barriers that hinder programs from complying with Certification Guidelines.
 - The workgroup will review survey responses at the next meeting which is scheduled for October 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the House of Ruth Maryland, 2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, Maryland.
 - The workgroup will extend an invitation to meet with AIP Executive Directors in November.
- ❖ Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child
 - Criminal Justice

- The Yale University Child Study has developed a protocol to help reduce causing additional trauma to children exposed to domestic violence and aims to mitigate the impact of such trauma.
- The Protocol is being forwarded to the International Association of Chiefs and Police for review.
- Julie Drake advised that Maryland has been designated as a pilot project for this study.
- School
 - Joan Stine advised that she recently learned of “Handle with Care,” a program used in West Virginia in an effort to help traumatized children learn.
 - Handle with Care is aimed at ensuring that children who are exposed to domestic violence receive appropriate interventions to help them achieve academically.
 - Law enforcement provides the school with a “heads up” when a child has been identified at the scene of a traumatic event.
 - The only information being provided to the school is the child’s name and handle with care. If the child acts out the next day at school, the teacher has the heads up and might send the child to the counselor instead of the principle, or give the child extra time to do a project or let the child take the test at a later time.
 - Ms. Stine suggested that this might be something that the group can pursue with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- ❖ Abusers Not Meeting the Conditions of Court Orders
 - The data fields to determine what happens when an abuser fails to satisfy the conditions of a court order identified by the workgroup were provided to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). DPSCS submitted almost all of the fields the workgroup requested be added into the Offender Case Management System (OCMS). DPSCS is working on the production and testing of the data fields in the OCMS and implementation is expected to begin next month.

VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER:

- ❖ VPO Statistics
 - During the 3rd quarter of this year, there were 10,344 protective orders issued. There were 1,276 registrations against those orders and 3,463 notifications were made to registrants. Nakita Long advised of Council of the following VPO statistics and provided a VPO Statistical Review handout:
 - July 2014 - 11.8% of the total number of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
 - August 2014 - 12.4% of the total number of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
 - September 2014 - 12.9% of the total number of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- ❖ Training
 - Nakita Long advised that approximately 388 victim service providers, law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals have been trained this year on VPO.
 - Ms. Long and Lashonde Beasley have held several VPO trainings at various victim service agencies and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.
 - Appriss, the vendor of VPO, have held 3 webinars and have another one scheduled for December 2014.
 - Nakita Long has coordinated a free on-site training with Appriss. This training is scheduled for October 14 and 15 at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission in Sykesville, Maryland.
- ❖ Issues

- The Sheriff's Office takeover of protective order service from Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) has caused some issues with VPO service notification. Ms. Long is working with Major Tapp-Harper and Vanessa Gordon at BPD to make them aware of their agencies responsibilities and resolve these issues.
- ❖ Brochures
 - Changes have been made to VPO brochures, however Appriss is behind schedule and Nakita Long has not yet received a proof of the brochure. Ms. Long advised that she will follow-up with Appriss to check the status.

ABUSER INTERVENTION PROGRAM (2014):

- ❖ Nakita Long advised that the 2014 Certified Abuser Intervention Programs have been forwarded to the AOC for inclusion in the Judge's Bench book.

FVC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

- ❖ Nakita Long provided the following information regarding the Council membership and reminded members of their attendance and workgroup obligations.
 - Manuel Ruiz is awaiting confirmation of his reappointment to the Council.
 - Tracy Brown has resigned from the Women's Law Center and her seat is now vacant.
 - Delegate Cathy Vitale has asked to be removed from the Council leaving one vacant Delegate Seat.
 - There is one Senate Seat available on the Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ❖ Meeting adjourned approximately 11:10 AM.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

~Family Violence Council (FVC) – January 2015 – Date to be Determined~

~VPO Training – October 14 & 15, 2014 – MD Police & Correctional Training Commission~

~Best Practices – Family Justice Center Workgroup – October 21, 2014 @ 10 AM at Howard County Library~

~AIP Certification and Audit Process Review – October 27, 2014 @ 10 AM at House of Ruth Maryland~

~Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women – November 15, 2014 @ 10:30 AM at Howard Co. Library~