

**GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 28, 2015**  
**Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room**

**ATTENDEES**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diana Cheng on behalf of Delegate Van T. Mitchell, Michael Cohen, Jessica Dickerson on behalf of Secretary Sam Abed, Julie Drake on behalf of Richard Barth, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Ellen Grunden on behalf of State's Attorney Scott Patterson, Lisae C. Jordan on behalf of Delegate Valderrama, Dorothy Lennig, John McGinnis on behalf of Lillian Lowery, Akeda Pearson, Adam Rosenberg, Chris Shank, David Shultie, and David Wolinski on behalf of Secretary Stephen Moyer.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Attorney General Brian Frosh, Arlene Lee, Secretary Sam Maholtra, Lisa Nitsch, Manuel Ruiz, Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, Senator Bryan Simonaire, Joan Stine, and Jeanne Yeager.

**STAFF:** Lashonde Beasley, Nakita Long, Amanda Rodriguez, and Justice Schisler.

**GUESTS:** Dan Coleman, Martha Danner, and Karen Payne.

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:** Nakita Long began the meeting at approximately 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- ❖ Motion: Approve the Minutes of October 8, 2014.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

**WELCOME GOCCP'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

- ❖ Chris Shank, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) introduced himself to members of the Council and expressed his interest in working with the Council and advancing the Council's mission.

**LEGISLATION:**

- ❖ Given that after this year's election, there are substantial change in the legislature, Council members suggested getting to know the new legislators and discussed the following for 2015:
  - Domestic Violence – Additional Relief
    - This bill would provide more flexibility for judges to order any other appropriate relief and tailor the order specific to the case.
    - Possible bill sponsors: Delegate Kathleen Dumais and Senator Susan Lee
  - Domestic Violence – Additional Relief – Specified Distance
    - This bill would allow a judge in a final protective order case to order the respondent to remain a specified distance away from the residence, place of employment, school, or temporary resident of a person eligible for relief.
    - Possible bill sponsor: Delegate Glen Glass
  - Dating Violence bill- Protective Order Expansion to Include Dating Violence
    - This legislation would move dating violence and sexual assault out of the peace order statute into the protective order statute.
    - Possible bill sponsor: Delegate Kathleen Dumais
  - Family Law Domestic Violence – Definition of Abuse
    - This legislation would move harassment and trespassing into the protective order statute.

- Possible bill sponsor: Delegate Angela Angel
  - Protective Order – Peace Order – Maryland Residence
    - This legislation would clarify jurisdiction when abuse occurs outside of Maryland but the person is a resident of Maryland.
    - Possible bill sponsor: Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
- ❖ The following bills were also discussed:
  - MD Healthy Working Family Act
  - Technical Fix Statute – Two Year Protective Order
  - Human Sex Trafficking Safe Harbor Bill
  - Affirmative Defense to Prosecution
- ❖ The Custody Commission is also coming forth with a recommendation to spell out how the court looks at case law in a custody case.
- ❖ Senator Brian Feldman would like to put together a commission on women’s health and study the increase in abuse when someone is pregnant.
- ❖ Council members were encouraged to attend the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) 2015 Legislative Reception and Briefing to hear legislative proposals to help shape the legislative agenda for 2015, meet with legislators and discuss issues important to women.

## **WORKGROUP:**

- ❖ Best Practices – 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.
  - The group has been researching and visiting different Family Justice Centers and will begin to establish a specific timeline and identify goals and objectives at the next meeting which is being held tomorrow, January 29, 2015 at GOCCP.
- ❖ AIP Certification and Audit Process Review
  - 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 abuse intervention programs meet the Guidelines in practice and to develop a protocol for certified programs that are not in compliance with the Guidelines.
  - The workgroup is working with Greg Coster, Director, Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC), at GOCCP to have a quantitative study conducted to determine the effectiveness of AIPs in Maryland.
    - AIPs from different jurisdictions in Maryland would be selected and individuals who were clients of the AIPs in 2012 would be cross matched with the Maryland Central Repository to determine if that individual has had another domestic related offense since completing the AIP.
    - Group members also expressed the need to have a qualitative study done and will work with Dr. Chris Murphy, University of Maryland, to have a qualitative study done.
- ❖ Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child
  - 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, however Maryland was not designated as a state to pilot this study.
    - Julie Drake advised that we can either wait to see if the study is proven or not or we can move forward with developing our own training for law enforcement.
    - Nakita Long advised that she would forward information to Council members to see if other individuals would be interested in continuing this work with Ms. Drake.

- Brochures were also created, however they have not yet been copied or disseminated to agencies.
- ❖ Abusers Not Meeting the Conditions of Court Orders
  - In an effort to determine what happens when an abuser fails to satisfy the conditions of a court order, the workgroup provided specific data points to be incorporated in to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) Offender Case Management System (OCMS).
  - Martha Danner, DPSCS, advised that Parole and Probation system went live on December 17, 2012, but they were not tracking all of the requested data. They typically tracked technical violations, new offenses and when a case closed, but was not capturing when special conditions were violated, results, judges, jurisdiction, and other extra conditions.
  - The business requirements have been approved, cost has been noted and the Department is looking at the different IT functions.
  - The Secretary and the Executive team will determine which modules go forward.

#### **VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER:**

- ❖ VPO Statistics
  - During the 2014 calendar year, there were 37,665 protective orders issued. There were 4,481 registrations which means that 12% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- ❖ Training
  - Nakita Long advised that approximately 450 victim service providers, law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals have been trained this calendar year on VPO.
    - Ms. Long will commence VPO training in March 2015.
- ❖ 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 to address these issues as they arise.
- ❖ Brochures
  - Changes have been made to VPO brochures. Ms. Long is waiting for the proof. Once the revised brochures are received, Ms. Long will disseminate them.

#### **ABUSER INTERVENTION PROGRAM (2015):**

- ❖ Nakita Long advised that the 2015 Application for Abuse Intervention Program Certification will be posted on GOCCP's website in mid-March.
- ❖ Ms. Long advised that GOCCP and the Maryland Abuse Intervention Collaborative (MAIC) will host a Technical Assistance training on March 3, 2015 at the Police and Correctional Training Commission.
- ❖ The training will provide an overview of Maryland State Guidelines for Abuse Intervention Programs, Application requirements, the audit process and attendees will learn essential information to overcoming barriers to remain or become certified.

#### **FVC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:**

- ❖ Nakita Long provided Council members with an updated membership list and advised the Council of the following
  - Many of the Council members have changed as a result of Governor Hogan's appointments.
  - We are awaiting the Governor to appoint a new Chair to the Council.
  - There is one vacant Delegate seat, one vacant Senate seat and a vacancy for a member to be appointed by the Governor.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- ❖ Meeting adjourned approximately 11:30 AM.