



Governor's Office of
**CRIME CONTROL
& PREVENTION**

**Maryland State Board of Victim
Services**

**Annual Report
for
FY 1997 - FY 1999**

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Governor, State of Maryland

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor, State of Maryland

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Chair, Maryland State Board of Victim Services

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Revised 11/00



Governor's Office of

CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES

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September 6, 2000

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Townsend:

On behalf of the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, we are proud to respectfully submit this Annual Report covering the years of 1996 through 1999. The Board, which is coordinated by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, is required by State Government Article, Section 9-1701 through 9-1708 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to fulfill its legislative mandate through the Report. This Report covers multiple years because of the unforeseen transition of the Board's Coordinators.

The Annual Report includes recommendations for the improvement of crime victim services in Maryland, as well as information on the administration of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund. It also documents the increasing activities and initiatives of the Board during this period of time. This Annual Report is submitted, as mandated, to the Governor, the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

We are very proud of the dedicated work of the State Board, its Coordinator and Assistant and the staff of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. We are honored to support you in our shared goals, and to see those efforts meeting the needs of crime victims in our State. Maryland can be justly proud of its progress in improving the plight of crime victims.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Amos
Executive Director

Roberta Roper
Chair, State Board of Victim Services

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MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES

Annual Report FY 1997, FY 1998 and FY 1999

I. Overview

Crime has a profound emotional impact on victims quite apart from the immediate physical and financial toll that crime often exacts. For many victims, basic feelings of security and trust are betrayed. This sense of betrayal can be intensified if the criminal justice system fails to listen to, involve, and consult crime victims throughout the justice process. Without repair, this sense of betrayal can undermine the fabric of our community by generating fear, suspicion, and anger and making victims feel even more isolated. As we seek to protect victims, it is essential that we provide avenues through which they can regain their basic sense of security and trust. Protecting and supporting victims of crime is one of the key areas of action in Maryland's Crime Control & Prevention Strategy.

Maryland is now recognized as one of the nation's leaders in the movement to guarantee basic rights to victims of crime. In 1994, the State enacted a Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution, which gives victims the constitutional right to be treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal and juvenile justice processes. It also gives them the right to be notified of, attend, and be heard at all court proceedings. Since the passage of the constitutional amendment, the Victims' Rights Task Force, with the support of the Glendening-Townsend Administration, has begun drafting State laws to incorporate procedures that ensures that victims' rights become a reality in the justice system.

In 1996, the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Victims' Right to Notification Act, which requires that victims be notified of their rights and of available support resources - beginning with their first contact with law enforcement and continuing throughout the entire justice process. In 1997, legislation was passed that opens juvenile court hearings to victims and other interested parties if the offense the juvenile committed would be a felony if committed by an adult. Victims were also given the right to receive notification of the status of such cases and to provide impact statements at the open hearings, building upon 1994 legislation which created parole hearings that were open to the public and to victims. In 1998 legislation was enacted that provides that victims of violent crime who attend open parole hearings may make oral statements at the hearing.

II. State Board of Victim Services

In 1988, the Maryland General Assembly created the State Board of Victim Services and the position of the Victim Services Coordinator. These two entities were created for the purpose of monitoring, assessing, coordinating and making recommendations concerning state and local efforts to assist victims of crime. The Maryland General Assembly recognized the unique and distinctive needs of crime victims and created the State Board of Victim Services. The Board's purpose is to ensure that all crime victims in Maryland are treated with dignity, respect and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process. In 1991, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Victims of Crime fund which is administered by the Maryland State Board of Victim Services. The Maryland State Board of Victim Services along with the Maryland Victims of Crime fund are governed and administered under the authority of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

This report describes a number of initiatives undertaken by the State Board that are consistent with their mission. These initiatives include enhancing awareness of victim rights and services, making the justice system more victim friendly and providing specific programmatic support to victim service programs.

III. State Board of Victim Services Initiatives

*** Enhance Awareness of Victim Rights and Services**

Although a number of pieces of powerful victim-related legislation were passed in the mid-1990s, many victims of crime remain unaware of their rights. Below, we describe steps the State has taken to increase awareness and victim participation in the justice process.

Victim Rights Brochures: The Victims' Right to Notification Act of 1996, the nation's most comprehensive victim notification statute, mandated the State Board of Victim Services to develop and distribute printed material that tells crime victims and witnesses about their right to receive information and services as they participate in the justice process. These materials include two brochures and a simple one-page form by which victims can formally ask to be notified of the status of their case, including the pending release of an offender from custody.

Automated Victim Information Notification (AVIN): In addition, to increase the ability of victims and witnesses to access timely information, the State Board of Victim Services funded a pilot program to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of an automated victim information and notification system. Based upon the success of these pilots, the General Assembly authorized four hundred thousand dollars to implement AVIN statewide. In 1999, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention developed an AVIN implementation plan and issued a competitive bid for statewide implementation.

Victim and Community Impact Statements: Many crime victims have a strong desire to take an active role in the prosecution and disposition of their offender's criminal case. Under Maryland's Victims' Rights Amendment, victims of crime have been guaranteed the right to attend their offender's sentencing hearing and to present a written and/or oral statement to the court for consideration prior to the offender's sentencing. As noted above, victims of violent crime or their representative also have the right to attend their offender's parole hearing and make an oral statement. The use of victim impact statements focuses the attention of prosecutors, judges, parole commissioners, and others on the human cost of crime and provides a way for the victim to participate more fully in the justice process. Perhaps most important, victim impact statements give victims an opportunity to begin recovery from the crime. The impact of crime extends beyond the victim to include the victim's family and community as well. "Community Impact Statements" give these secondary victims an opportunity to make others aware of the devastating consequences of crime for the broader community.

*** Make the Justice System More Victim Friendly**

While the past two decades have witnessed considerable legislative activity in regard to victims' rights, many Maryland agencies struggle with the challenge of finding effective and efficient ways to provide services to match the higher standards the new laws envision. The rapid growth in victim services has provided little opportunity to standardize Maryland's victim assistance programs or to train new personnel thoroughly in how to ensure that the justice system is victim friendly. In 1997, the State Board of Victim Services conducted a survey to assess the effectiveness of criminal justice-based and community-based victim assistance programs. The survey helped to identify a number of gaps in existing programs and services and led to new funding and educational priorities in the following areas:

Program Standards: Comprehensive service standards are being developed for all criminal justice-based victim assistance programs. These standards, which are scheduled for release in early 1999, will help improve the quality and consistency of victim services across the state and will provide a framework for statewide training efforts.

Technical Assistance and Information Sharing: Many innovative victim assistance programs and resources have been developed nationwide, but remain largely unknown to other victim assistance programs. The Victim Services Coordinator, a legislatively mandated staff position in the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, will take the lead in making promising practices and strategies known to victim assistance personnel across the state through hands-on technical assistance to new and expanding programs. In addition, the State Board is providing subscriptions to Internet services and to professional journals and newsletters to help service providers stay abreast of emerging trends across the nation.

Monitoring: The success of our justice system is directly related to the treatment of crime victims. To determine whether victims are being adequately informed of their rights and the procedures for invoking those rights, the State Board will conduct surveys of random

samples of victims who have reported a crime. The survey results will help identify general and agency-specific needs for training and technical assistance.

Based on the 1997 survey results, the State Board also made statewide, interagency training throughout the criminal justice system its top funding and work priority for 1998, and 1999. Beginning in November 1999, the State Board will sponsor a series of training sessions for personnel representing all types of criminal justice agencies.

IV. State Board of Victim Services Meetings and Membership

July 1, 1996 through December 31, 1999

The State Board of Victim Services' meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. The Board met thirty-nine (39) times during the period from July 1, 1996 to December 31, 1999.

The State Board's Annual Retreats were held on October 2, 1996 at Donaldson Brown Conference Center, November 3, 1997 at the Marriott Conference in Towson, and March 3, 1999 at the Berkshire Conference Center in Towson. An annual retreat was not held in 1998. The retreat is an opportunity for the Board to review their mission statements and goals and establish a work plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

Pursuant to the State Government Article, sec. 9-1703, membership of the State Board of Victim Services as of September 30, 1999 is composed of the following:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Roberta Roper | Chair |
| Barbara Bond | Office of the Attorney General |
| William Brill, Ph.D. | Public Member |
| Chief William Harrison | MD Association of Chiefs of Police |
| Christine Jackson, M.D. | Service Provider |
| The Honorable Raymond Kight | State Sheriff's Association |
| Keith Kim, Ph.D. | Public Member |
| The Honorable Marna McLendon | State's Attorney |
| Barbara Pedersen | Service Provider |
| Annie Powell | Service Provider |
| Lynn Putman | Public Member |
| Michael A. Sarbanes | Office of Crime Control & Prevention |
| Esther Scaljon | Department of Public Safety |
| Adrienne Siegel | Department of Human Resources |
| Gustava Taler, Esquire | Service Provider |
| Toni Torsch | Department of Juvenile Justice |
| Deborah A. Unitus | Judiciary |
| The Honorable Frank R. Weathersbee | State's Attorney |
| Virginia Wolf | Public Member |
| Delmas P. Wood, III * | Department of Juvenile Justice |
| Benjamin R. Wolman, Esquire | Criminal Injuries Compensation Board |
| Roni Young, Esquire | Service Provider |

* James McClafferty will replace Delmas Wood effective December 2, 1999.

The State Board of Victim Services is staffed by the State Coordinator, Denise C. McCain, Carol Mackowiak, Fiscal and Grants Administrator, Donna Fleck, Executive Secretary, and Tracey Gordy, Special Assistant.

Board Vacancies

At the time of the filing of this report, the State Board is currently operating with one vacancy under the Service Provider position. A nomination has been made to the Governor's Appointment Office and is pending.

Victim Services Coordinator Staffing

In December 1996, Mary Pat Brygger resigned as Victim Services Program Coordinator. From that time, Ellen Alexander served as Acting Coordinator and was then made permanent in September 1997. Ms. Alexander resigned in November, 1998 and the position remained open for two months until January, 1999 when Denise C. McCain was appointed as the new State Coordinator of Victim Services.

V. The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

The Purpose of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Grant Program

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC Fund or the Fund) was created by the Maryland General Assembly during the 1991 Legislative Session. The legislation created a source of revenue for programs across the state serving victims of crime. The primary purpose of the Fund is to ensure implementation of the Declaration of Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution and the Guidelines for Treatment of and Assistance to Crime Victims and Witnesses and other laws adopted to benefit victims and witnesses of crime (Article 47, Sec. 848).

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 26A, Section 17 (a) gives the Judiciary in both the District and Circuit Courts authority to impose fines on convicted offenders. The 1995 Maryland General Assembly passed a bill increasing the fine Courts could impose from \$20 to \$30 in Circuit Court and from \$10 to \$20 in District Court. These additional fees took effect on October 1, 1995. In 1997, these court costs were increased and codified whereby the Circuit Court fine is now \$45 and the District Court fine is \$35.

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awards grants to organizations that provide advocacy and support services to victims of crime for the purpose of developing and enhancing existing programs that serve victims of crime in Maryland. This is to be differentiated from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) which provides moneys directly to victims of personal injury crimes, or surviving family members in the case of a homicide, once a claim has been filed and approved. The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention is responsible for the administration of grants from the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund.

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Process

The Notice of Availability of Funds is distributed from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to programs listed in the Victims' Services Directory announcing the availability of new grant funds to develop and enhance victim assistance programs in Maryland.

A grant review committee is created by the Board, composed of Board members and volunteer victim service professionals appointed by the Board. The Committee is responsible for reviewing the grant proposals and selecting programs to recommend to the Board for funding. At which time the full Board then reviews the recommendations of the Grants Review Committee, which are in turn reviewed by the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for final approval.

The Notices of Funding Availability for FY 2001 were mailed out on November 4, 1999. The completed grant applications were to be submitted to the Governors's Office of Crime Control & Prevention on January 6, 2000 to allow jurisdictions the opportunity to allocate new grant money in their budgets for the upcoming year

Grants Awarded from the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

MVOC Grants Awarded

FY 98

In FY 1998, the **Maryland Victims of Crime Fund** awarded grants totaling \$ 612,998, \$350,535 in second or third year continuations of prior grants and \$262,463 in new awards. Additionally, the State Board awarded a total of \$44,280 to Carroll and Montgomery County State's Attorney's Offices for a special "State-Focus Project," to evaluate the effectiveness and practicality of the statewide implementation of an automated victim notification system (AVIN). This was a six-month pilot project which has proven to be extremely effective and beneficial for victims resulting in the decision to implement a fully integrated statewide system for including both the clerks office, local detention center and the Division of Correction and Public Safety.

On March 5, 1997, the State Board voted and approved the request of the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to accept the "Victim Outreach & Assistance Element" of the HotSpot Community Initiative application for consideration for MVOC funds in the grants review process. As a result, \$79,164 was awarded to the Victim Outreach Element in Phase I of the Maryland HotSpot Community Initiative.

FY 98

In FY 1998, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling \$806,993. First year awards totaled 342,415, \$160,342 in second year funding, and \$180,492 in third year funding. Hotspot programs with Victim Outreach elements received \$123,744 of MVOC funding.

SEE APPENDIX (A) FOR PROGRAMS FUNDED

FY 99

In FY 1999, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling \$918,217, First year awards totaled \$ 294,196. \$315,263 in second year funding. \$998,478 in third year funding. \$ 82,842 in funding for one-time only grantees. \$126,438 totaled in HotSpot funding.

SEE APPENDIX (B) FOR PROGRAMS FUNDED

FY 00

In FY 2000, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling \$ 957,505, First year awards totaled, \$ 540,211. \$180,844 in second year funding. \$ 236,450 in third year funding.

SEE APPENDIX (C) FOR PROGRAMS FUNDED

VI. Other Activities of the State Board of Victim Services

A. Crime Victims Brochures

Pursuant to the mandates of the Constitutional Amendment, Declaration of Rights - Article 47 stating that "*a victim of crime shall be treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal justice process,*" the State Board developed two series of brochures to ensure that victims right to be informed were adhered to by law enforcement personnel, commissioners or juvenile justice intake workers and State's Attorney's (Article 27 sec. 770).

Approximately 2 million copies of "***CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES: Your Rights and Services***" brochures were printed and distributed throughout the state at a cost of \$100,000. Brochures were designed by regions (Allegany, Washington & Garrett Counties; Anne Arundel & Howard Counties; Baltimore City; Baltimore County; Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's Counties; Cecil & Harford Counties; Montgomery County; Prince George's County; Queen Anne, Kent, Talbot & Dorchester Counties; and Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester Counties), with individual resource directories outlining services available in each specific region.

Within 10 days after the later of the filing or the unsealing of an indictment or information in Circuit Court, the State's Attorney is responsible for providing the victim with the pamphlet, "***Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process,***" also produced by the State Board.

In 1998 the brochures were drafted in Spanish to address the increased Hispanic population in the state. As of November 1999, the brochures are currently being reformatted to a pocket-size version for easier assessability for law enforcement and lower postage costs for Department of Juvenile Justice who are required to mail to all victims of juvenile offenses.

B. Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Annual Statewide Victims of Crime Memorial Service

The Victims of Crime Memorial Service is one of two annual events sponsored by the Maryland State Board of Victim Services. The annual service is held to honor those Marylanders who lost their lives to violent crime. The event commences National Crime Victims Rights Week which is traditionally held on the last Sunday in April.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Crime Victims Memorial Service Planning Committee, in 1995 three identical services were held simultaneously in three regions as opposed to one single service. The decision to extend services throughout the state was based upon the apparent need to accommodate a larger number of participants and to facilitate greater accessibility for surviving family members.

The regions were geographically divided as follows:

Central Region

Anne Arundel
Baltimore City
Baltimore
Calvert
Charles
Harford
Howard
Prince George's
St. Mary's

Eastern Region

Caroline
Cecil
Dorchester
Kent
Queen Anne's
Somerset
Talbot
Wicomico
Worcester

Western Region

Allegany
Carroll
Frederick
Garrett
Montgomery
Washington

All three services maintained uniformity with opening ceremonies lead by a color guard, musical selections and the symbolic raising of the banner arranged with doves or butterflies representing those remembered. A proclamation is presented to the hosting State's Attorney along with a Board member by an appointee of the Governor.

In 1996, the Crime Victims Memorial Service Core Committee adopted a new theme "We Remember Them," which has remained for the past three years.

1997 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

Core Committee members included: Sheriff Raymond Kight (Chair), Lee Pearson, Pamela Widgeon, Paula Slan, Sondra Battle and Shelby Lowry along with representatives from each region.

The Eight Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 13, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. The service for the Central Region was held at Baltimore City College in Baltimore City, and was hosted by The Honorable Patricia Jessamy, State's Attorney for Baltimore City. An estimated 500 surviving family members and friends attended. The Eastern Region held its service at Salisbury State Chapel, hosted by The Honorable Joel J. Todd, State's Attorney for Worcester County. Reports indicate that close to 100 participants were in attendance. The service for the Western Region was held at the Executive Office in Rockville, Maryland, hosted by The Honorable Robert Dean, State's Attorney for Montgomery County. Approximately 120 guests attended.

1998 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

Core Committee members included: Dr. William Brill (Chair), Lee Pearson, Ellen Alexander, State Coordinator, Jill Ritter, Victim Witness Director, Washington County State's Attorney's Office, Wayne Lowe, Victim Witness Director, Wicomico County State's Attorney's Office and Denise McCain, Victim Witness Director Howard County State's Attorney's Office. Representatives from each jurisdiction provided assistance with the coordination of each region's program.

The Ninth Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 19, 1998 at 4:00 p.m. The service for the Central Region was held at Mt. Hebron High School in Ellicott City, and hosted by The Honorable Marna McLendon, State's Attorney for Howard County. An estimated 250 homicide survivors, supporters and victim service providers attended. The Eastern region held its service at Salisbury State Chapel where an estimated 75 participants attended. The Honorable Davis Ruark hosted this event. The Western region service was hosted by The Honorable M. Kenneth Long, Jr. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Washington County. Approximately 180 surviving family members and friends attended.

1999 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

The Tenth Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 25, 1999 at 4:00 p.m. The service for the Central region was held at North County High School in Annapolis and hosted by The Honorable Frank Weathersbee, State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County. An estimated 400 surviving family members and friends attended. The Eastern region held its service at Sailwinds Park at Governor's Hall located in Cambridge. The Honorable Michael Maloney hosted the event for approximately 125 participants. The service for the Western

region was held at the New Windsor Conference Center in New Windsor. The event was hosted by The Honorable Jerry F. Barnes, State's Attorney for Carroll County where an estimated 175 surviving families members and friend were in attendance.

Core Committee members included: Delmas Wood (Chair), Denise McCain, State Coordinator, Patti Dickerson, Victim Witness Director, Dorchester County State's Attorney's Office, Maureen Gillmer, Victim Witness Director, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office and Shirley Haas, Victim Witness Director, Carroll County. Representatives from each jurisdiction provided assistance with coordination from each region's program.

Changes in the 2000 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

On April 7, 1999, the State Board voted to accept the recommendation of the State Coordinator to allocate \$1,000.00 to each region hosting a memorial service to afford Regional Coordinators the opportunity to plan programs without added concerns of raising money to finance events, and eliminate ensuing ethical concerns of elected officials regarding fund raising. The funds will be provided for each region hosting services in April 2000.

C. Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

To conclude the annual observance of National Crime Victims Rights Week in April, the State Board sponsors the Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon. This luncheon has proven to be a rewarding ceremony that highlights those who have dedicated their lives to providing invaluable assistance to victims of crime and improving victims rights throughout Maryland. Additionally, in honor of the late Henry Gleim the State Board awards the Henry Gleim Memorial Award to an individual dedicated to improving the rights and services for Maryland's victims of crime.

1997 Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

The 1997 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Friday April 18, 1997 at Snyders Willow Grove Restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland. Twenty-three (23) individuals and seven (7) Programs/Groups/Organizations received the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. The Henry Gleim Memorial Award was given to Maureen Gillmer, Victim/Witness Coordinator from the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office. An Outstanding Victim Advocate Award was given to Elaine Molling, a resident nurse from the Harford County Memorial Hospital.

1998 Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

The 1998 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Friday April 24, 1998 at the Snyders Willow Grove Restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland. Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend attended the luncheon as the guest speaker and presented the awards to the recipients. Twenty- three individuals (23) and five (5) programs/groups/ organizations received the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. Ginny Mahoney and Terry Farrell were awarded the Henry Gleim Memorial Award.

1999 Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

The 1999 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Friday April 30, 1999 at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Gregory Leyko, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention delivered the keynote luncheon address. Twenty-one (21) individuals and three (3) programs/groups/organizations were awarded the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. Steven Hess, Victim Witness Program Director for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland was awarded the Henry Gleim Memorial Award by special guest, U.S. Attorney Lynne Battaglia.

D. Statewide Victim Assistance Training Conference

The Board has long recognized that full implementation of and compliance with crime victims' rights is dependent upon training of all those people who provide victims with information and services. Victims need accurate information to allow them to make choices concerning their rights, about compensation for their injuries and losses and complete information about criminal justice proceeding that provide for their participation. In an effort to establish a comprehensive training program that would ensure more uniform and accurate delivery of victims' rights and services, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services sponsored its first three-day, statewide training conference on November 15th, 16th, 17th, 1999 at Martins West in Baltimore, Maryland. There were approximately 175 attendees including victim service advocates representing local State's Attorneys' Offices, law enforcement, Parole and Probation, Division of Correction and non-profit agencies. Participants paid \$75 registration fee which included a training manual, commemorative tote bag and pen, and hot lunch each day. Registration was processed by CESAR who also assisted with on-site registration.

The conference entitled Victim Services: A Foundation for Justice was developed as a multi-disciplinary, foundational training for all personnel working with victims of crime. Emphasis was placed on Maryland's victims rights legislation and applicable procedures for compliance. Three day attendance was required to receive a certificate of completion. Continuing Education Units were offered to law enforcement and correctional personnel.

The curriculum was developed by the Statewide Victim Assistance Training Committee which was formed to assist with the planning and implementation of the conference. Members included Toni Torsch (Chair), Roberta Roper, Marna McLendon, Roni Young, Ginni Wolf, and Denise McCain, State Coordinator. Advocates from local State's Attorneys' Offices and the Division of Correction served on the committee. Upon completion of the initial program, an adult educator was consulted for review and evaluation of the proposed curriculum. Recommendations were made to include more interaction for participants, to decrease the length of time for speakers and conclude daily sessions before 4:30 p.m. The conference committee agreed with the suggested recommendations which were adopted into the program curriculum.

The keynote address was given by Trudy Gregorie, Director of Training for The National Center for Victims of Crime. Ms. Gregorie's fee was supplemented by a grant awarded to the State Board of Victims Services from The Office For Victims of Crime, Training & Technical Assistance Program. Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Chief Judge Robert Bell participated as special luncheon guest speakers, along with Dr. Gaynell Colburn, nationally recognized victim advocate, 1998 Essence Award Recipient and former child abuse victim inspired all to "Believe You Can." Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr., presented at a workshop on Ethical Concerns in the Delivery of Services to Victims.

The State Board plans to offer this training to both the Eastern and Western regions in 2000 to allow others in the state to receive this required pre-certification course. Fifty thousands dollars was allocated for all three conferences.

VII. Legislation

Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution

The Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution passed on November 8 1994 in a general election ballot. It was approved by Maryland voters by an overwhelming 92.5% majority.

The amendment states:

(a) A victim of crime shall be treated by agents of the state with dignity, respect and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal justice process.

(b) In a case originating by indictment or information filed in a circuit court, a victim of crime shall have the right to be informed of the rights established in this article and upon request and if practicable to be notified of, to attend, and to be heard at a criminal proceeding, as these rights are implemented and the terms "crime," "criminal justice proceeding" and "victim" are specified by law.

(c) Nothing in this article permits any civil cause of action for monetary damages for violation of any of its provisions or authorizes a victim of crime to take any action to stay a criminal justice proceeding.

It is the task of the State Board of Victim Services to ensure that legislation and agency policy is introduced to implement the constitutional amendment.

Crime Victims Rights Task Force

In June of 1995, the Governor and the Maryland Legislature established the Crime Victims' Rights Task Force under the Co-Chairmanship of Delegate Vallario and Senator Stone. The purpose of the Task Force is to examine current Maryland law related to victims (as consolidated under Article 27 in the Annotated Code of Maryland) and make substantive changes to bring the State into compliance with the constitutional amendment. The Task Force has concentrated on the issue of ensuring victim notification throughout the criminal justice process, expansion of victims' notification rights and privileges to participate and be heard at criminal proceedings and Criminal Injuries Compensation Funds. Denise McCain, Roberta Roper and Frank Weathersbee currently represent the State Board of Victim Services on the Maryland Legislative Task Force.

Victims' Rights Legislation Passed in the 1996 Session

Court Costs - Victims of Crime - (SB 741/HB1209)

This bill continues a \$5.00 court cost forailable offenses and dedicates the fund to the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund. It also allows the Board of Victim Services or the Governor to transfer some or all to the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund. Chapter 598, Laws of Maryland, 1996.

Oral Address - (SB254/HB 847)

This bill allows for a victim or survivor to present an oral address at an open parole hearing. Chapter 573, Laws of Maryland, 1996.

Court Costs - State Aid For Police Protection, Criminal Injuries Compensation, and Victim Witness Protection and Relocation - (SB 578/HB 898)

This bill dedicates \$500,000 per year to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and \$125,000 per year to a new Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund. Chapters 587, 588 Laws of Maryland, 1996. Courts Article 7-301 (f).

Victims' Rights Legislation Passed in the 1997 Session

Victims' Rights Act of 1997 - (SB173/HB768)

This law provided substantive revisions to Maryland laws relating to crime victims by expanding the rights of victims of felonies and delinquents acts, that if committed by an adult, would be a felony. Implements Article 47, Declaration of Rights, Maryland Constitution, for victims to be informed, present and heard at criminal justice proceedings. Chapters 311, 312, Laws of Maryland, 1997.

Court Costs - Victims of Crime - (SB 174)

This bill codified a \$5.00 court cost to increase funding for the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund and the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund. Chapter 313, Laws of Maryland, 1997.

Wrongful Death Damages (HB770)

This bill expands the ability of family members to collect economic and non-economic damages in the death of an adult child or death of the parent of an adult child. The statute of limitations for those under legal disabilities was also extended. Chapter 318, Laws of Maryland

Victims' Rights Legislation Passed in the 1998 Session

Victims' Rights Notification (HB506)

This bill requires the prosecutor to notify victims in Circuit Court and juvenile cases about the terms and conditions of any plea agreement and judicial action. Chapter 480, Laws of Maryland, 1998.

Victims' Rights - Presence of Victim (HB500)

This bill strengthens the right of victims of a crime or delinquent act or their representative to be present at a criminal trial, and limits the court from excluding the victim after their initial testimony. Chapter 479, Laws of Maryland 1998.

Parole Hearings - Oral Testimony By Victims (SB 241)

This bill expands the rights of victims to testify at parole hearings to include those who file notification request forms. Effective January 1, 1999. Chapter 362, Laws of Maryland, 1999

Criminal Sentencing - Judicial Review Panels - Victim Notification (SB280)

This bill requires victims who file a notification request form be notified and allowed to attend and address a judicial panel before modifying, increasing or reducing a sentence. Chapter 367, Laws of Maryland, 1998.

Victims' Rights Legislation Passed in the 1999 Session

Victims of Homicide - Transportation Expenses

Provides that the State budget shall pay the expenses to transport a victim of homicide from the site of the autopsy or examination to a location within the state specified by the family. Health General Article, Section 5-305(g)

Truth In Sentencing (HB602)

This bill requires the court to announce the actual sentence by stating the maximum and minimum range of the sentence. It is part of a bill that included other provisions such as the creation of a Permanent Sentencing Commission.

Victims' Rights - Notification and Attendance - Post Conviction Proceedings (HB304)

Provides that a victim will be notified and may be present at proceedings to consider motions for a new trial or at other proceedings to correct or set aside a sentence.

Victims' Rights Juvenile Hearings and Dispositions

In juvenile delinquency cases and criminal reverse waivers, this bill provides victims with notification, the ability to be present, and the opportunity to comment on whether the child shall be tried in criminal or juvenile court.

Victims' Rights - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Claims (SB118)

This bill gives the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board more discretion in determining victims' eligibility for awards. Requires a study to determine possible expansion of eligibility.

Victims' Rights - Attendance at Proceedings (SB124)

Employers are prevented from firing a victim who exercises their right to attend a criminal justice proceeding through this bill.

VIII. Notable Milestones & Accomplishments of the Maryland State Board of Victim Services

1997

- Development/distribution of crime victims brochures and notification forms to law enforcement personnel and State's Attorneys' Offices
- Established professional standards for the field of victim advocacy

1998

- Funded two (2) pilot projects for automated victim notification system VINE
- Granted funding to implement statewide automated notification system

1999

- Established Coordinating Council to oversee development and implementation of the automated victim notification system
- Conducted first pre-certification training conference for victim service professionals
- Developed a comprehensive plan to implement statewide automated victim notification system

IX. Recommendations for Improvement of Treatment and Services Available to Maryland Victims of Crime

Subsequent to the March 1999 annual retreat, the State Board of Victim Services has identified the following areas which are recommended for the improvement of treatment and services for victims of crime. The full implementation of these initiatives will allow for more comprehensive services and treatment to victims, strengthen the role of the State Board and further promote the goals of Maryland's Crime Control & Prevention Strategy.

The recommendations are as follows:

- Enhance the current structure and composition of the State Board to include members more diversely representative of crime victims community and those with professional backgrounds which inherently lend themselves to the Board's mission.
- Establish formal procedures to facilitate and expedite the nomination and appointments process for potential State Board candidates to include written notification of an applicant's pending status and anticipated date of appointment.
- Strengthen efforts to monitor state's compliance of legislatively mandated crime victims notifications laws, with emphasis on law enforcement, commissioners and Department of Juvenile Justice Intake personnel.
- Make recommendations to the Governor and Lt. Governor on appropriate issues for the 2000 Maryland Legislative Session to continue to ensure the implementation of the constitutional amendment on crime victims' rights.
- Review the current process for the collection of court ordered restitution payments and make recommendations for improvements for both juvenile and adult offenders.
- Develop professional certification standards for all victim assistance personnel to ensure consistent level of training and service to victims throughout the state.
- Establish a statewide, toll-free 800 number to provide information, referrals for victims of crime and establish a mechanism by which complaints for non-compliance of victims rights can be registered and addressed.
- Enhance the visibility of the State Board to increase public awareness of victims' rights and services.
- Provide greater access to information to victims and service providers through the development and usage of Internet and other innovative technologies The Maryland

Victims of Crime Fund grant applications, crime victim brochures and forms should be accessible through these mediums.

- Pursue additional resources to increase staff to full-time assistance for State Coordinator.
- Assist jurisdictions with technological support to facilitate the implementation of an automated victim notification system.

X. Collections into the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

Maryland Victims of Crime Collection FY 98 VCF Transfer: Circuit Court

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Allegany County | 16,073.66 |
| Anne Arundel County | 55,858.96 |
| Baltimore City | 31,257.51 |
| Baltimore County | 49,543.60 |
| Calvert County | 10,230.43 |
| Caroline County | 4,405.37 |
| Carroll County | 16,107.90 |
| Cecil County | 10,697.39 |
| Charles County | 18,227.31 |
| Dorchester County | 6,155.64 |
| Frederick County | 23,108.84 |
| Garrett County | 1,967.14 |
| Harford County | 16,486.35 |
| Howard County | 30,523.47 |
| Kent County | 4,632.88 |
| Montgomery County | 89,622.50 |
| Prince George's County | 29,320.33 |
| Queen Anne's County | 5,582.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| St. Mary's County | 5,948.00 |
| Somerset County | 2,130.00 |
| Talbot County | 10,633.00 |
| Washington County | 18,067.24 |
| Wicomico County | 10,950.00 |
| Worcester County | 22,763.02 |
| TOTAL | \$490,292.54 |

APPENDIX A

FY 1998 New Grant Awards are as follows:

| Agency | Project | Grant Amount |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Frederick County Police Department | Elderly Victim Assistance Unit | \$25,225 |
| Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence | Victim Assistance Enhanced Services | \$27,600 |
| Montgomery County Victim Assistance & Sexual Assault | Telephone Intake Assessment | \$21,697 |
| MADD-Lower Eastern Shore Chapter | Victim Assistance Coordinator | \$14,782 |
| St. Mary's Hospital | Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner's Program | \$24,876 |
| Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Div. of Parole & Probation | Victim Advocacy Community Liaison | \$32,000 |
| Talbot County State's Attorney's Office | Victim Assistance Administrative Support Services | \$12,005 |
| Department of Juvenile Justice | Community Conferencing | \$29,954 |
| Dorchester County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Advocate | \$22,526 |
| Cecil County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Assistance Program | \$24,491 |
| YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County | Civil Advocate | \$31,805 |
| MD Division of Correction | Victim Notification Database Automation | \$29,818 |
| St. Mary's Women's Center | Domestic Violence Intervention & Prevention Program | \$16,591 |
| Howard County State's Attorney Office | Victim Assistance Enhancement Project II | \$29,045 |

APPENDIX A (continued)

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|---|--|----------|
| Anne Arundel County Police Department | Victim Assistance Unit | \$22,500 |
| Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office | Domestic Violence Unit/Domestic Violence Docket II | \$57,600 |
| Baltimore County Police Department | Victim Services Project | \$7,418 |
| Calvert County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Advocate for Juvenile Court | \$11,250 |
| Rockville City Police Department | Victim Advocate Position | \$19,172 |
| Washington County State's Attorney's Office | Victim Witness Unit - Secretarial Assistant | \$19,902 |
| Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office | Maryland Victims of Crime | \$22,500 |
| Baltimore Child Abuse Center/Child Advocacy Network | Victim Outreach Specialist | \$16,096 |
| Calvert County Health Dept. | Court Liaison Support for Victim Advocacy Services | \$11,950 |
| For All Seasons | Enhanced Services to Victims of Violence | \$14,599 |
| Garrett County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Assistance Unit | \$15,000 |
| Harford County Sheriff's Office | Victims' Service Manager | \$13,000 |
| Heartly House, Inc. | Prosecution & Community Abuse Victim Advocacy | \$14,191 |
| Hospice of the Chesapeake | Homicide Education & Support Services | \$10,097 |
| Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence | Legal Assistance - Shelter Residents | \$10,798 |
| Montgomery County Government | Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator | \$20,365 |
| Northwest Citizens Patrol | Project Recourse | \$6,534 |

APPENDIX A (continued)

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|---|--|----------|
| Salisbury Police Department | Victim Assistance Services | \$7,466 |
| St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office | Domestic Violence Intervention | \$7,500 |
| Anne Arundel County Police Department | Domestic Violence Outreach - Enhanced Enforcement | \$20,274 |
| Takoma Park Police | Computer Equipment to Improve Resources & Information Dissemination to Crime Victims | \$2,000 |
| MD National Capital Park Police-Montgomery Division | Mobile Digital Photo Suspect Identification Demonstration Project | \$5,578 |
| Harford County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Training | \$921 |
| Hagerstown Police Department | Victim Services Office | \$1,753 |
| Prince George's County Police Department | Victim Assistance Training and Resources | \$2,370 |
| Talbot County | HotSpot Award | \$27,046 |
| Kent County | HotSpot Award | \$5,434 |
| St. Mary's County | HotSpot Award | \$28,793 |
| Worcester County | HotSpot Award | \$30,000 |
| Baltimore County | HotSpot Award | \$13,220 |
| Prince George's County | HotSpot Award | \$12,752 |
| Anne Arundel Annapolis/Victim Outreach | HotSpot Award | \$6,500 |

FY 1999 New Grant Awards are as follows:

| Agency | Project | Grant Amount |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Anne Arundel County Police Department | Victim Assistance in the Anne Arundel County Police Dept. | \$4,350 |
| Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Div. of Parole & Probation | Victim Service Training & Resource Development | \$22,872 |
| Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office | Victim Advocate for Violent Crimes | \$30,000 |
| Gaithersburg Police Dept. | Spanish Immersion Training | \$4,790 |
| Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center | Outreach Worker | \$30,000 |
| Calvert County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Advocate for District Court | \$29,952 |
| Harford County State's Attorney's Office | NOVA Toolbox Training Conference | \$21,600 |
| Queen Anne's County State's Attorney's Office | Victim Witness Program | \$32,272 |
| Kent County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Services Improvement | \$3,080 |
| Howard County State's Attorney's Office | Victim Assistance Enhancement Project III: Crime Victim's Support | \$7,500 |
| Salisbury Police Department | Victim Assistance Services | \$16,195 |
| Prince George's County Police Department | Victim Witness Assistance Program | \$6,040 |
| Rockville City Police Department | Spectra & Digital Camera Project | \$6,421 |
| Heartly House, Inc. | Victim Outreach Information and Coordination Effort | \$26,052 |
| City of Frederick Police Department | Elderly Victim Assistance Unit | \$18,919 |

APPENDIX B (continued)

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|--|---|----------|
| Montgomery County, Department of Health & Human Services | Telephone Intake Screener | \$21,780 |
| MADD Lower Eastern Shore Chapter | Victims' Services for MADD | \$17,250 |
| St. Mary's Hospital | Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program (SAFE) | \$18,657 |
| Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Div. of Parole & Probation | Victim Advocacy Community Liaison | \$24,000 |
| Talbot County State's Attorney's Office | Support Services for Victims of Crime | \$8,142 |
| Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice | Community Conferencing in Howard County | \$22,466 |
| Dorchester County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Advocate for District Court | \$18,891 |
| Cecil County State's Attorney's Office | Victim/Witness Assistance Program | \$22,500 |
| YWCA of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County | Annapolis & Anne Arundel County | \$23,872 |
| Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Div. of Parole & Probation | Victim Notification Database Automation | \$22,140 |
| St. Mary's Women's Center | Domestic Violence Intervention & Prevention Program | \$12,526 |
| Howard County State's Attorney's Office | Victim Assistance Enhancement Project II | \$21,784 |
| Somerset County | HotSpot Victim Outreach | \$18,750 |
| Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office | VINE | \$25,000 |
| Center for Children | Victim Services Center | \$18,586 |

FY 2000 New Grant Awards are as follows:

| Agency | Project | Grant Amount |
|--|---|--------------|
| City of Baltimore | Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office | \$49,322 |
| City of Baltimore | Eastern & Northern District Victim Services Coordinator | \$49,975 |
| City of Salisbury | Victim Assistance Services | \$12,464 |
| Wicomico County Council | District Court Victim/Witness Coordinator | \$26,500 |
| Carroll County Government | Victim Service Case Management | \$30,923 |
| Anne Arundel County Government | Victim Assistance Education and Outreach | \$23,000 |
| Washington County Board of Commissioners | Juvenile Court Victim/Witness Coordinator | \$39,376 |
| Kent County Board of Commissioners | Sheriff's Office Victim Witness Assistance | \$10,896 |
| Howard County Government | District Court Victim Advocate | \$45,519 |
| Charles County Government | Sheriff's Office Victims of Services Liaison | \$45,778 |
| Howard County Government | Domestic Violence Victims Advocate Program | \$45,980 |
| Anne Arundel County Gov't | Victim Notification Specialist | \$33,875 |
| City of Hagerstown | Domestic Violence Response Coordinator | \$40,910 |
| Harford County Government | Victim Witness Service Specialist, District Court Unit | \$27,925 |
| City of Capitol Heights | Victims/Witness Advocate | \$29,800 |
| Frederick County Board of Commissioners | Victims Services Assistant | \$40,432 |
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