

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Ellen Alexander, Barbara Bond, Walter T. Coryell, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, R. Gary Hofmann, Kristen Mahoney, Laura Martin, Kathleen O'Brien, Margery Patten, Jeanne Cooper on behalf of Johnny Rice II, Roberta Roper, Bonnita Spikes, Debra Tall, Deborah A. Unitus, Frank R. Weathersbee, Virginia Wolf and Jeanne Yeager.

Staff: Shirley Haas, Anne Litecky and Nakita Long.

Guests: Alyssa Andrews, Angela Boos, Rosario Garcia, Lisae C. Jordan, Vivian Penda, Jim Skidmore, Sheila Tome, and Charles Whitley, III.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Roberta Roper began the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ Motion: To Approve Minutes of July 7, 2010 Board Meeting
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Executive Committee

- Members of the Executive Committee met to review and discuss the MVOC FY 2011 budget.
 - After discussing the Compliance Committee's new initiative to consider services available to homicide victims and the new law which takes effect October 1, requiring that law enforcement, through the Police and Correctional Training Commission, include training about victims' rights and services to all victims of crime, the Executive Committee concluded that a working retreat is necessary.
 - A motion was made by the Executive Committee to amend the MVOC 2011 Budget, Section 898 by adding \$3000 for a working retreat. The \$3000 additional expenditure for a working retreat for the coming year would increase the budget from \$359,440 to \$362,440. The motion for an additional \$3000 for a working retreat was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - The date and location of the retreat are to be determined after the upcoming election.
- The MVOC Fund is supported by court costs and fines in Circuit Court and District Court. The Executive Committee reviewed the MVOC court collections (Circuit Court Screen 9). There is no reported revenue from Baltimore City Circuit Court for four months. Anne Litecky reported that she was told by GOCCP's Fiscal Department that this is due to the way money is collected.

❖ Grant Review Committee

- The Grant Review Committee and members of the Board discussed and recommended changes to the MVOC and LSCV Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for Fiscal Year 2012.
 - Timeline
 - ✓ NOFAs will be posted online in mid-September.
 - ✓ Online submission of applications have an approximate due date of November 7.
 - ✓ Hardcopy submission of applications have an approximate due date of November 14.
 - MVOC First Year Grant Awards
 - ✓ The total amount of funds available for first year MVOV grants is \$375,000.
 - ✓ There is a maximum amount of \$35,000 to be awarded per applicant.
 - MVOC Continuation of Funding

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and approved to eliminate staggered level funding (1st year – 100%, 2nd year – 75% and 3rd year – 50%) and replace it with assured level continuation funding for three years.
- LSCV Grant Funding
 - ✓ LSCV funds available to be awarded to one applicant for one year is \$75,000.
- Grant Application Review Scoring Process
 - ✓ A motion was made to change ‘evaluation’ to 10 points and change ‘organizational management’ to 5 points. The motion was seconded and approved.
 - ✓ Anne Litecky was instructed to change the language in the “letters of support” section of the NOFA to include that letters of support must show what the agency intends to accomplish as articulated in the grant. The letters of support section should also state that stock letters that are generic and not specific will not be accepted.
 - ✓ The new language will be provided to Karl Pothier, Assistant Attorney General, to review to make sure the language complies with legal mandates.

❖ **Legislative Committee**

- Email requests were sent to members of the Board and victim service providers inviting them to submit legislative ideas, comments or suggestions for the Legislative Committee and the Board to review in relation to the upcoming legislative session. No responses have been received thus far. Barbara Bond, Chair of the Legislative Committee, is encouraging the Board and victim services providers to think about proposals or legislative activities that may be important to their organization. Additionally, responses from Maryland Victim Service Professionals Association members requested by Steve Hess should be forwarded to Steve Hess by September 10.
- Barbara Bond will plan a Legislative Committee meeting to clarify the legislative process.
- VOCA has been transferred from the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to GOCCP. Also, legislation is being reviewed to transfer sexual assault and domestic violence funds from DHR to GOCCP.
- Bonnita Spikes suggested that she would like to join the Legislative Committee. Barbara welcomed Bonnita’s participation.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

❖ **Town Hall Meeting: A Voice for Crime Victims-Eastern Shore**

- The first Town Hall meeting was held on July 15 at Salisbury University. There were representatives from State’s Attorneys’ Offices, victim service provider and law enforcement agencies from the Eastern Shore counties. There were approximately 75-100 people in attendance. Approximately 10 victims and 5 individuals representing different victim service agencies spoke out. Several of the issues expressed included having a lack of transportation to services, inadequate interpreters and a lack of training. There were concerns raised about having a lack of evidence collection and fingerprint technicians. Victims also expressed a high level of frustration regarding offenders who repeatedly violate protective orders and with having a lack of judges in District Courts. GOCCP staff and other panel members were able to immediately address some of the issues that were discussed.

❖ **Town Hall Meeting: A Voice for Crime Victims-Northern Metro Region**

- There are four Town Hall meetings. The second Town Hall was held in Howard County on August 24 and included Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Harford and Howard Counties.
- The third Town Hall meeting will be for the Western region. It will include Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Frederick and Washington Counties. The meeting will be held in Frederick County in October however, the date has not yet been determined.

- The fourth Town Hall meeting will be for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and will be held October 26 from 6 pm – 8 pm at the new Silver Spring Civic Center.
 - Kristen Mahoney wrote a letter to David W. Weissert, Coordinator, Office of Coordinator of Commissioner Activity, and he has agreed to attend each of the remaining Town Hall meetings.
- ❖ **October Board Meeting Location/Illuminations**
- A recommendation was made to hold the October Board meeting at Villa Maria so that Board members can attend "Illuminations: Artwork Creating Change" art exhibit currently on view at Villa Maria School at the St. Vincent's Center. The Board unanimously agreed.
- ❖ **Sunshine Fund**
- There is \$142.00 in the Sunshine Fund. There have been no expenditures since summer of last year. The last collection was September 2009.
- ❖ **2011 Memorial Service and Governor's Luncheon Committee Chairs**
- Debra Tall will remain chair of the Governors Luncheon. The Memorial Service will be chaired by Patricia Marshall and co-chaired by Bonnita Spikes
- ❖ **2011 Planner – Seeking Presentation Ideas**
- Board members are asked to volunteer to report out on special events, programs and/or what is happening in their community.
- ❖ **Family Conference for Homicide Victims – September 11**
- Reminder: Roberta's House Family Grief Support Center is sponsoring the Family Conference for Homicide Survivors: 2010 "A Day of Healing" on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM.
- ❖ **State Board Manual Status**
- The Maryland State Board Manual is being updated and it is expected to be finalized in the next few months.
 - New Board Members needing a copy of the Manual can have a PDF of the old manual emailed to them upon request.
- ❖ **National Day of Remembrance – September 25**
- Parents of Murdered Children and the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center have partnered to sponsor the National Day of Remembrance which will be held September 25, 2010. This free event will have interactive forum discussions with three breakout sessions including: (1) family relationship dynamics and mental health issues following a homicide; (2) the roles of the law enforcement team (including the prosecutors) and survivors of homicide victims, and (3) the services for and rights of survivors in order to assist survivors in seeking justice. Board members and victim service providers are asked to encourage the families they serve to attend.
 - Reminder: The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center's Annual Chocolate Affair Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser will be held at the Fraternal Order of Police #89 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland on October 15, 2010.
- ❖ **Reminder**
- Compliance Committee Meeting immediately following today's Board meeting.

**The next Board meeting will be held at
ASSOCIATED CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC.
Saint Vincent's Center
on
Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**