

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

## ATTENDEES

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Ellen Alexander, Walter T. Coryell, Cortney Fisher, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, Ed Parker on behalf of Kristen Mahoney, Patricia Marshall, Laura Martin, Margery Patten, Roberta Roper, Bonnita Spikes, Debra Tall, Deborah A. Unitus, Virginia Wolf.

**STAFF:** Shirley Haas, Anne Litecky, Nakita Long.

**GUESTS:** Jennie Boden, Karen M. Hartz, Vivian Penda, Wayne Price, David Soule.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Roberta Roper began the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m. and welcomed David Soule, today's presenter.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ Motion: To Approve Minutes of September 1, 2010 Board Meeting
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved

## PRESENTATION:

### ❖ MD State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy

- David Soule, Executive Director, MD State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy provided a brief history of the Guidelines and MD's State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy.
- Some issues were discussed regarding the following sections of the Sentencing Guidelines Worksheet.
  - Indigence Established
    - ✓ Issue - This section is usually left blank due to a lack of understanding. When the payment of fines or court costs is waived, it directly impacts MVOC, CICB and the Victim/Witness Protection Fund.
    - ✓ Recommendations – Reword the question to state “Has indigence been established to waive the victim related court cost?” Also, have the Board appeal to the Judiciary that there must be a finding of indigence as it directly affects MVOC, CICB and the Victim/Witness Protection Fund.
  - NRF (Under the Victim Information subheading)
    - ✓ Issue - NRF section is frequently left blank partly due to the fact that people are unaware of the meaning of NRF(Notification Request Form) filed.
    - ✓ Possible solution – Mr. Soule advised they are moving to an automated system which would allow the acronym to be spelled out.
  - CICB Cost Imposed (Under the Victim Information subheading)
    - ✓ Issue – Question is worded in a way that it does not express what it is asking. It references Criminal Procedure Article 11-819 which really only establishes a Criminal Injury Compensation Fund.
    - ✓ Possible solution - Provide clarification in Sentencing Guidelines Manual.
  - There have been recent revisions to instructions for scoring Victim Injury. The instructions now indicate that services such as rape crisis are included as evidence of psychological injury to the victim.
- The MSCCSP will hold its Annual Public Comments Hearing on December 14, 2010 at 615 p.m. in the Judiciary Conference Room of the House Office Building.
- A copy of today's presentation will be emailed to all Board members.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

### ❖ **Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon Committee (2011 Luncheon Planning)**

- The Board discussed and agreed to continue having the Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon. However, in order to reduce cost; an after lunch or evening reception was discussed as an alternative in lieu of the luncheon. Other alternatives included holding the luncheon at a state facility such as PCTC.
- Cortney Fisher volunteered to help coordinate nominations.
- Debbie Tall volunteered to help coordinate the location to hold the luncheon.
- Board members, Ginni Wolf, Patricia Marshall, Margery Patten, Ellen Alexander, and Cortney Fisher joined the Luncheon Committee.

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### ❖ **Sentencing Commission: *Report from a Victim's Representative***

- A discussion was held regarding the Board's opposition to streamline the Sentencing Guideline Worksheet by taking out the victim information.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved, to have a letter written on behalf of the Board expressing the Board's position. Roberta Roper and Laura Martin will work together to draft and finalize the letter.
- Board members were requested to attend the meeting December 14, 2010, to express the importance of not removing the victim information section from the worksheet. Board members, Ellen Alexander (if there is no conflict in her schedule), Cortney Fisher (after getting permission) and Bonnita Spikes agreed to attend the December 14 meeting to represent the Board.
- David Soule' requested that he get a copy of the Board's letter prior to the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### ❖ **State Board Member Updates**

- Board members are asked to volunteer to report out on special events, programs and/or what is happening in their community. If there are no volunteers, Anne Litecky will select members to report out monthly.

#### ▪ **Updates**

##### ✓ **National Day of Remembrance**

- Parents of Murdered Children and the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center sponsored the National Day of Remembrance on September 25, 2010. During the day time, there was an interactive forum divided into three different groups. The breakout groups focused on family dynamics, law enforcement and victims' rights and services.
- At the conclusion of the event recommendations made by the three groups were presented to the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) and to those in attendance.

##### ✓ **Maryland Citizens Against State Executions**

- A bill was passed to make it harder to impose the death penalty for certain homicide cases.

### ❖ **Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) Update**

- Jessica Dickerson, Designee for DJS, was not present at today's Board meeting to provide an update.

### ❖ **Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Postings (MVOC & LSCV)**

- The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC) and the Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) is now posted on the GOCCP website

([www.goccp.maryland.gov](http://www.goccp.maryland.gov)). The funding cycle for both grants begins July 1, 2011 and ends on June 30, 2012. Online submissions are due November 16, 2010 and the hard copies are due November 18, 2010. The amount of available funds for MVOC is \$300,000 with up to \$35,000 to be awarded per applicant. The amount of available funds for LSCV grants is \$75,000. Questions regarding the NOFA can be sent to Anne Litecky or Nakita Long.

❖ **VINE Initiative**

- VINE Committee members discussed the Vine media campaign and have agreed on using an advertising theme of Homicide Survivors: Rights and Services. VINE will be tagged at the bottom of the advertisement. The campaign should be completed by December or January.
- The printing of brochures and advertising uses funds from the Maryland Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) portion (4%) of the annual Appriss, Inc. contract.
- Parole and Probation Information and Notification is now available through the VINE system.
- GOCCP is following up with Appriss on some issues that have arisen with the VINE Protective Order.
- The overall usage of VINE increased in the last quarter.

❖ **Town Hall Meeting: A Voice for Crime Victims**

- **Metro South**
  - The Metro South Town Hall was held on October 26 in Montgomery County with State Agency representatives from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. There was a diverse population of victims who expressed breakdowns in the systems.
- **Metro-North and Western Regions**
  - Several different issues were presented at each of the Town Hall Meetings that made them each unique.
  - A report focusing on issues in the system is being drafted to be submitted to the Governor.

❖ **Compliance (Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form) CVNF Audit**

- In response to Joey Cravath's (former Victim Services Advocate, Maryland Division of Parole and Probation) presentation to the Board regarding the breakdown in the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) receiving the CVNF, a CVNF random audit was conducted.
- State's attorneys' offices and Clerks' Offices in each jurisdiction were contacted and presented with a series of questions regarding how they process the CVNF.
  - The results showed that both the state's attorneys' offices and Clerks' Offices are processing the form as required by law.
- As follow-up to the audit, the State Compliance Coordinator contacted DPP and was advised that DPP is receiving the CVNF, however the offender is not yet on probation, therefore there is no link between the CVNF and offender files.
- DPP was advised to monitor the incoming CVNF that have no probationer and to contact the Compliance Coordinator if a pattern arises so that the issues can be addressed.
- Although not compliance related, the audit also showed that victims are not returning the CVNF. Therefore, recommendations were made to train state's attorneys' offices on how to better explain the purpose of CVNF to crime victims.

❖ **Reminder**

- Memorial Service Committee meeting immediately following today's Board meeting.
- National Crime Victims Rights Week will be observed April 10-16, 2011.
- MSCCSP will hold its Annual Public Comments Hearing on December 14, 2010 at 615 p.m.

**The next Board meeting will be held at  
Anne Arundel Police Department Headquarters  
on  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**