MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

ATTENDEES


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


WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Roberta Roper began the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m. and provided a brief background of the Maryland State Board of Victim Services for those persons who were new in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- Motion: To approve Minutes of January 5, 2011 Board Meeting.
- Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Legislative Committee (handout) (2012: schedule February meeting)
  - The Legislative Committee was not very successful this year. Committee members were reluctant to respond and seemed to be intimidated by the legislative process.
  - Legislative Committee members have a responsibility to look at bills and follow up on information.
  - It was suggested that next year, the Legislative Committee members meet weekly during the beginning of the session (January – February) to discuss legislative bills and consider whether or not to take a position on a bill.
  - House Bill 135 and House Bill 801 were sent out to Board members who voted for the Board to send a letter to the Committee voicing the concerns of the Board. Both Bills were passed in the House and then sent to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. State Board members and other attendees were urged to contact Senators for a favorable report without amendments.
    - It was noted that if HB 135 does not pass, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICB) will be unable to pay approved awards.
  - State Board members were asked to refer to page 81 of the Policies and Procedures Manual for Legislative Priorities.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK
- 22nd Annual Memorial Services
  - The four regional Memorial Services for crime victims and their families will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011.
    - The Northern Region’s service is being hosted by Baltimore County State’s Attorney’s Office and will be held at Notre Dame Preparatory School from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
    - The Southern Region’s service is being hosted by the Saint Mary’s County State’s Attorney’s Office and will be held at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
The Eastern Region’s service is being hosted by Queen Anne’s County State’s Attorney’s Office and will be held at the Centreville United Methodist Church from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Western Region’s service is being hosted by Carroll County State’s Attorney’s Office and will be held at the VFW Post #467 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Theme: “Something Beautiful Remains”
- Poem: “Something Beautiful Remains”
- Color: Teal and White

Governor’s Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon
- The Governor’s Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon will be held April 29, 2011 at 11:30 at Club Meade in Fort Meade, Maryland.
- There are six different award categories. Thirty-one individuals and three groups are being awarded. There is 1 recipient of the Virginia Mahoney Award and 1 recipient of the Gleim Award.
- Keynote Speakers: Eduardo Valseca and Jayne Valseca, Author of “We Have Your Husband”
- Invocation: Minister Todd Alexander
- Photographer: William Johns
- Music: Meade High School
- Ticket Costs: $30.00 each
  - A State Board member volunteered to pay for a victim to attend the Luncheon who was very upset about having to pay for a ticket when her husband was the victim of a crime.
  - Future payment for victims to attend the Luncheon will be handled by the Board on a case by case basis.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Sunshine Fund
- The Sunshine Fund expended $162 since the January 2011 Board meeting.
- There is a balance of $18.41 in the Sunshine Fund.
- Contributions were requested and received.

State Board Member Representation Report
- MD Sheriff’s Association
  - Queen Anne’s County has experienced its second homicide in two weeks. Details of one of the homicide cases where a neighbor was killed over a dog dispute were briefly discussed. The Sheriff inquired about whether or not he should approach the family and/or attend the funeral.

VINE
- New Vine brochures and posters are available. To obtain brochures, please contact GOCCP. Brochures can also be found online, downloaded and printed.
- Vine Protective Order (VPO) is now up and running. VPO includes Protective Orders and Ex Parties.
- VINE includes District Court and Circuit Courts, Division of Correction, Detention Centers and Parole and Probation.

Circuit and District Administrative Judge Visits
- Power Point Presentation
  - A power point presentation and handout was provided to give an overview of the Circuit Court and District Court Sentencing Guidelines Worksheet Disposition Form.
- There are three standard forms in District Court (Trial Docket, Routine Traffic Docket and Serious Traffic Docket) and one standard form in Circuit Court.
- Court costs include Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC), Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB), and Victim/Witness Relocation Fund.
  - There is a problem with the Court Cost terminology on the sentencing guideline worksheet.
    - District Court uses Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF)
    - Circuit Court uses Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB)
  - The definition of “indigence” is unclear

- The State Board is mandated to review and make recommendations to the Executive Director on Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) funds.
  - MVOC funds come from the court costs assessed and collected from District and Circuit Courts fines.

- District and Circuit court costs and follow up on conversation with Judge A. Wilner and meeting with Judge M. Holland
  - The Board sent a letter to Judge Wilner to request clarification of the definition of indigence.
  - In his response letter, Judge Wilner was reluctant to define indigence, but cautioned that the problem it is not about just accessing the cost, but about collecting the costs.
  - Part of the problem with imposing court costs is the confusion between courts costs and court fines.
    - Possible Solution: Legislation to mandate that certain things are done rather than having judicial discretion to impose or not to impose court costs.
    - Possible Solution: Have GOCCP arrange a meeting with everyone involved in imposing and collecting court costs.
  - A meeting with Judge Wilner and stakeholders will be coordinated for sometime in May.

- Administrative Judge Visit: Report out
  - State Board members reported out on their meeting with Administrative Judges to discuss imposing court costs.
    - Costs are not usually imposed if someone is going to jail because they cannot afford to pay.
    - Cost of collection and Central Collection Unit (CCU) are other factors considered in not imposing court costs.

- Retreat
  - Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000) has been allocated from the MVOC budget for a September 7, 2011 Retreat.
  - All Board members were asked for their suggestions for possible retreat location, theme and facilitator.
    - Possible suggestions include the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland. There is a $50 fee to use the room and a tour of the Old House is required.
    - Committee members were identified and include Ellen Alexander, Margery Patten, Patricia Marshall, Ginni Wolf and Roberta Roper

- State Board Manual: Review and Recommendations
  - It was suggested that the language in the Policies and Procedures Manual – Meeting Structure (page 39) be amended. This item will be discussed at the Retreat.
REMINDERS

National Crime Victims Rights Week is April 10-16, 2011.

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22nd Annual Maryland Statewide Memorial Services is Sunday, April 10, 2011

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Governor’s Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon is Friday, April 29, 2011

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Charles County Courthouse Candlelight Vigil is Tuesday, April 12, 2011

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Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center’s Annual Ceremony of Remembrance is Saturday, April 16, 2011

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Anne Arundel County Remembrance/Awards Ceremony is April 13, 2011

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For more Crime Victims’ Rights activities, see the Maryland Calendar of Events at www.goccp.maryland.gov

The next Board meeting will be held at
Anne Arundel Police Department Headquarters
on
Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.