

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013
Baltimore Child Abuse Center

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Barbara Ariano, Ellen Alexander, Barbara Bond, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, Bruce Layton on behalf of Gary R. Hofmann, Patricia Marshall, Laura Martin, Margery Patten, Debra Tall, Deborah Unitus, Heather Amador on behalf of Frank R. Weathersbee and Virginia Wolf.

STAFF: Anne Litecky and Lauren O'Malley.

GUESTS: Michaele Cohen, Michelle Lee, Raquella Smith, Pat Melcer, Andrew Donelan, Kelly Burrell, Blanca Plotz, Deidre Gardner.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Ellen Alexander, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.

MINUTES:

- Motion: Move to approve Minutes of January 9, 2013 with grammatical edits.
- Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Grant Review Committee

- Letters of intent with the award amounts will be mailed out this week.
- Fifteen (15)- FY2014 MVOC grants were awarded, and (1) LSCV.
- The Grant Committee voted to give Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office partial funding, but GOCCP decided to award the total grant application amount of \$35,000.
- The total awards increased from \$328,000 to \$336,750

❖ Governor's Victim Assistance Awards and Commemorative Day Luncheon Committee

- The Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at the Double Tree Annapolis Hotel from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
- The cost will be \$21.00 per person.
- The Committee Chair asked that victim service groups please send pictures highlighting their work to be used in the PowerPoint Victims Rights Milestone presentation.

❖ Memorial Service

- The 24th Annual Statewide Memorial Service, which recognizes survivors of homicide will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at four regional locations:
 - Northern Region: Anne Arundel County, Annapolis High School.
 - Southern Region: Prince George's County, Bowie State University.
 - Eastern Region: Dorchester County, Sailwinds Community Center
 - Western Region: Frederick County, 7th Day Adventist Church
- The theme will remain "Their Light Still Shines".
- The committee has agreed on a butterfly motif with peach for the invitations, programs, and bookmarks.

- There may be a list of statewide resources on the back of the bookmark. Input will be collected on statewide and national resources.
- As time gets closer, we will be looking for Board Members to accept the proclamation at each of the services.

❖ **Legislative Committee**

- The Committee has been meeting weekly via teleconference, but will cancel the call for this week scheduled for February 7, 2013 due to scheduling conflicts.
- Delivering letters to Annapolis on behalf of the State Board has been challenging.
- The Committee seeks the Board's approval to send a letter of support regarding gun violence legislation, Senate Bill 281/House Bill 294.
 - Motion: Move to allow the Committee to deliver the letter on behalf of the board in support of the Governor's Anti-Gun Violence Legislation.
 - Vote: Seconded and Unanimously Approved
- The Chair of the State Board recommends that that the Board not take a stance on the Governor's Death Penalty Repeal, but wishes support the fiscal note attached to Senate Bill 276/House Bill 295 which would provide an additional \$500,000 to the MVOC Fund to aid not only the families of victims of homicide, but all crimes.
 - Motion: The Board Moves to send a letter of support for the fiscal note attached to the Death Penalty Repeal Bill.
 - Vote: Seconded and Unanimously Approved.

❖ **Victim Rights Compliance Committee**

- The Committee has been meeting bi-monthly and will meet again on February 7, 2013.
- The Committee is still reviewing other states' compliance programs and understand that thorough and proper training is an important component.
- A Letter will be sent to GOCCP once approved by the committee.

PRESENTATIONS

❖ **Adam Rosenberg, Executive Director, Baltimore Child Abuse Center**

- The Baltimore Child Abuse Center is a one-stop shop to minimize the trauma faced by children who are victims of abuse.
- The Center is comprised of a variety of resources including police, counseling, and doctors and collaboration is vital.
- The goal is to make the centers as child-friendly and nurturing as possible.
- 1,157 Children served in 2012, with an 85% disclosure rate.

❖ **Dr. Kerry Hannan, Director of Forensic Services, Baltimore Child Abuse Center**

- Finding Words guidelines are followed when interviewing children.
- The structure of interviewing a child is as follows:
 - 1) Establish rapport and earn the child's trust.
 - 2) Transition into allegations, sometimes the best way is just to ask, "why are you here today?"
 - 3) The next step is a narrative, which may start with talking about a neutral event which then gives the child an opportunity to say what happened in their own words.
 - 4) Closure.

❖ **Captain Martin Bartness**

- Discussed the Baltimore Police Department Special Investigations Division and their work with the Baltimore Child Advocacy Center and the State's Attorney's offices.

❖ **Kelly Burrell, Assistant State's Attorney, Baltimore City**

- There is a new unit within the Baltimore City State's Attorney's office which addresses child abuse and at risk-adult abuse.
- In some cases, it takes up to two years to prosecute a child abuser.
- The child must disclose the abuse in order to be able to affectively prosecute the case.

❖ **Leslie Schnoll Fitzpatrick, LCSW-C, Maryland Champ**

- Maryland Champ is the collaborative effort of four (4) pediatricians, a forensic nurse, a program manager, and a network of doctors and nurses who consult on child physical abuse and neglect cases.
- Much of BCCPT is a collaboration between child abuse physicians in Baltimore City.
- Their goal is to improve access to medical care for victims, provide follow-up recommendations, and educate healthcare workers and other professionals on how to identify the signs of physical abuse and neglect to prevent victims from falling through the cracks.
- Baltimore City MDT.

❖ **Andrew Donelan, LCSW, Baltimore City Department of Social Services**

- The DSS investigated just under 5,000 cases in 2012.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation and invited to take a tour of the Baltimore Child Abuse Center. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 pm.

**The next Board meeting will be held at the
Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters
on
Wednesday, March 6, 2013**