

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
1517 Ritchie Highway, #201
Arnold, MD 21012
January 24, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair
Wes Adams, Esq.
Bonnie Ariano
Anne Bean
Molly Knipe
Steven Levin, Esq.
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Justice Schisler for Glenn Fueston
Lisa Spicknall-Horner
Jeanne Yeager

Guests:

Joshua Pederson, 211 Maryland
Lydia Williams, Maryland Department on Aging

Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Angelina Guarino, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Don Hogan, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Janet Lane, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. GOCCP Updates

Justice Schisler informed Board members that the Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks held its first meeting earlier this month. The Council has developed objectives focusing on data sharing, legislation, budget, and operations. Ms. Schisler reported that the New Futures Bridge Subsidy Program has housed 258 family members to date. This program started in the summer of 2017 in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, the Maryland Department of Human Services, and the local comprehensive victim service programs. It aims to provide rental assistance for domestic violence victims and youth aging out of foster care for one year. Ms. Schisler stated that the Governor's Office Of Crime Control & Prevention is currently accepting applications for the Domestic Violence Central Repository Certification, which allows victim service providers,

domestic violence shelters, rape crisis center or legal services corporation grantees access to shielded protective orders to ensure the safety of victims. Ms. Schisler informed members that Victim of Crime Assistance (VOCA) funds should remain steady for one additional year, and then will probably decrease to \$6-8 million.

III. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the October 2017 Board meeting minutes, Family Violence Council updates and Children's Justice Act Committee updates. Mr. Robertson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. Legislative Updates

At the October meeting, Mr. Hogan provided an overview of House/Senate Bill Criminal Procedure - Victim Services Unit - Victims' Compensation that will be reintroduced during the current legislative session. Mr. Hogan reiterated that this bill will bring the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board under the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, move the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Program to make it part of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, thereby allowing the SAFE program to bring an additional \$860,000 through the federal VOCA fund for victim services, and establish a new unit that will focus on restitution collection. Board members were in favor of this bill and decided to move forward with drafting a letter of support.

V. 211 Maryland Presentation

The President and CEO of 211 Maryland, Josh Pederson, provided members with a presentation on 211 Maryland. 211 Maryland is an information referral gateway service. The 211 Maryland database has over 5,000 private and non-profit, public health, and human services programs. The 211 Maryland is available in 180 languages and 75% of the call centers in Maryland are crisis call centers where the staff has received training on crisis situations and suicidology. The 211 Maryland website includes contact information for local programs and a learning library of community and direct services. 211 Maryland has the ability to track calls by geography and needs, and displays that data online.

Mr. Pederson informed members that the most accessed services on the 211 Maryland website were for housing and utility assistance. The 211 Maryland website's main page has 10 user groups: Healthcare, Children & Families, Mental Health & Substance Misuse, Veterans & Military, Food, Housing & Homeless, Utility Assistance, Employment, Legal & Tax Assistance, Seniors & People with Disabilities. With the dissolution of the Maryland Community Services Locator website, Board members asked Mr. Pederson if a "Victim" user group could be added to the website as an online portal for victims to access information for services. Mr. Pederson was open to the idea and asked Board members for assistance with what programs and agencies would need to be added. The Office will provide this list to Mr. Pederson.

VI. Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Update

Members were provided with an updated Annual Operating Plan which included status updates for the Strategic Plan focus areas: Infrastructure, Staff, Training, Technology and Victim Compensation. Goal Team Leads will discuss additions to outcomes for the Board's Strategic

Plan at an upcoming meeting. Board members will be informed of future updates to the Strategic Plan and Annual Operating Plan through the consent agenda.

VII. 2018 Crime Victims' Rights Events

Ms. Allyn informed Board members that the Annual Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference has been confirmed for Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the University of Maryland. The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention has been working with the Office for Victims of Crime to secure economic empowerment, adverse childhood experiences and domestic violence/mental health and substance abuse workshops to the conference. Other workshops at the conference will include legal advocacy, victim rights and human trafficking based upon Board members suggestions from the last meeting.

On Sunday, April 8, 2018, four regional Memorial Services will be held for crime victims and their families. Board members were asked to attend one of these services. The four regional memorial services are as follows:

- Northern Region: Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane, Columbia, MD 21045, 2 pm – 4 pm
- Southern Region: North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 8536 Bayside Road, Chesapeake Beach, 20732, 1 pm – 3 pm
- Eastern Region: Kent Island Methodist Church, 279 Cox Neck Road, Chester, MD 21619, 2 pm – 4 pm
- Western Region: The Fillmore Silver Spring, 8656 Colesville, Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

VII. Old/New Business

Angelina Guarino advised Board members of a new form of parole release that is incorporated with the Justice Reinvestment Act, effective as of October 1, 2017. Administrative release allows certain inmates to be released at their parole eligibility date, after serving one-fourth of their sentence, without a hearing if: the inmate complies with their individualized case plan, the inmate has not committed a Category 1 rule violation as defined by COMAR, a victim has not requested a hearing, and the Parole Commission finds a hearing unnecessary considering the inmates history, progress and compliance. There are certain requirements for an inmate to be eligible for administrative release.

For the purposes of the Board, the *Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services* and *Your Rights in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process* brochures must be updated with information on administrative release and that victims have the right to receive notification of an inmate's eligibility for administrative release and may request a hearing. The suggested language to add to the brochures is as follows:

- *Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process Brochure*
 - Under the Section 'Important Reminders', add "If you are a victim of a controlled dangerous substance, theft, or other related property crime, an offender who is sentenced to one of these crimes *may* be eligible for *administrative release* after serving one-fourth of a sentence. A victim has the right to request an open hearing

prior to release and offer written testimony concerning the crime and victim impact. For further information contact the Maryland Parole Commission at <https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/agencies/mpc.shtml> or 410-585-3200.”

- In the section “What happens when my case is finished?”, add “Be notified of a defendant’s eligibility for administrative release and have the opportunity to request a hearing in advance.”
- *Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services Brochure*
 - Under ‘Maryland Crime Victims’ Rights’, change “permitted to be present and heard at criminal justice proceedings” to “permitted to be present and heard at criminal justice proceedings, or request hearings when applicable”

Board members were in favor of these additions to the brochures and the language will be added to the brochures for the next round of printing. Members also discussed reviewing the brochures as a whole to ensure the appropriate resources were listed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Follow Up Items:

- GOCCP will provide Mr. Pederson with a list of the comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault programs in Maryland, Child Advocacy Centers and Certified Abuse Intervention Programs for 211 Maryland.
- Board members should let Ms. Allyn know if they plan to attend one of the regional Memorial Services.
- Board members should let Ms. Allyn know of any suggested changes to either brochure by January 31.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

YWCA of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

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