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.dpcs.state.md.us/agencies/mpc.shtml](https://www.dpcs.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.
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