

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Side A
Crownsville, MD 21032
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair
Barbara Bond, Vice-Chair
Wes Adams, Esq.
Anne Bean
Lynn Davis
Jessica Dickerson
Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Lou Gieszl
Sheriff Gary Hofmann
Joe Riley, Esq.
Jill Ritter
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Lisa Spicknall-Horner
Jeanne Yeager

Guests:

Susan Hansell, Maryland Children's Alliance
Lisae Jordan, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Angela Cromwell, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Cameron Edsall, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Don Hogan, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Quentin Jones, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Sabraya Knight, 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. The Board welcomed two new members, Caroline County Interim State's Attorney Joe Riley and Lisa Smith, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs at the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City.

II. GOCCP Updates

Mr. Fueston informed members that Justice Schisler is now Chief of Programs overseeing the grants unit for the Office. Mr. Fueston also announced that the Notice of Funding Availabilities

(NOFAs) with a start date of July 1 will be released within the month of May. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant applications will be released over the summer.

The Office hosted two events in partnership with the Board during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. On April 8, the Annual Memorial Services for Crime Victims were held in Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, and Queen Anne's counties. On April 12, the 3rd Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference was held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Approximately 400 people were in attendance for various workshops on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), victims' rights, intersections of domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse, human trafficking and more.

Mr. Fueston encouraged members to provide the Office with feedback on effective strategies to combat human trafficking in Maryland, particularly with the identification of trafficking and gang networks. Mr. Adams emphasized the crucial importance of intervening early to protect victims from exploitation. Members discussed defining the scope of human trafficking in Maryland and focusing on both serving victims and stopping traffickers and offenders. Members agreed that more resources and services were necessary to effectively reduce human trafficking in Maryland.

On April 30, the Office hosted two Handle with Care training sessions. Under Handle with Care, law enforcement, mental health providers, and schools work together to minimize the effects of childhood trauma. Governor Hogan has tasked the Office with implementation of the Handle with Care model across the state. Ms. Wheeler serves as the current Handle with Care Coordinator.

III. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the January 2018 Board meeting minutes, Governor's Family Violence Council updates, the Children's Justice Act Committee updates, the updated Maryland State Board of Victim Services Strategic Plan and the updated Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Sheriff Hofmann made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. Legislative Updates

The Board provided a letter of support for House Bill 247 - Criminal Procedure - Victim Services Unit - Victims' Compensation. Mr. Hogan informed members that that HB 247/Ch. 422 (2018) is effective July 1, 2018. The bill transfers the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Program under the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, allowing the SAFE program to bring approximately \$800,000 through federal VOCA funds for victim services, and establishes a new unit that will focus on restitution collection.

V. Maryland Children's Alliance Presentation

Susan Hansell provided the Board with an overview of the vision and priorities for the Maryland's Children's Alliance. Ms. Hansell emphasized the strengths of Child Advocacy Centers and the importance of incorporating evidence-based practices and victim advocacy services into child advocacy work. While the Maryland Children's Alliance does not provide

direct accreditation to child advocacy centers, it does provide support in the process of accreditation. Ms. Hansell encouraged collaboration between partners of the Maryland Children's Alliance and emphasized the growth of the Maryland Children's Alliance moving forward.

VI. Next Steps for Strategic Plan

Members discussed next steps for the Board's Strategic Plan. The AOP will be updated to reflect the following updates:

- "One stop shop online for resource and referral information" will be removed from the AOP as 211 Maryland is in the process of adding numerous victim service resources provided by the Office to their network. Ms. Allyn will provide the Board with updates of 211 Maryland's progress but mentioned they are currently hiring for a CEO which could affect when these resources will be added.
- "Draft and garner support for legislation that will result in increased emergency response funds available for victims of crime" will be removed from the AOP as House Bill 247 was passed, which brings approximately \$800,000 to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for victim's compensation.
- Ms. Bean provided members with the results of the Victim Advocate staff survey that the Board disseminated in January 2018. Respondents of the survey were 30% law enforcement, 21% victim service providers, 18% State's Attorney's Offices, and 14% child advocacy centers. Of those who responded to the survey, 73% have a victim advocate at their agency, 35% have a bilingual advocate and the primary barrier to employing a bilingual advocate is funding. Of those who responded to the survey, 72% stated they would share the resources of their advocate with neighboring jurisdictions, if applicable. Ms. Yeager informed members of how Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence is using the Google Pixel phone for translation services with their hotline and in person. The Board recommends bilingual services be a priority in the VOCA NOFA.
- The Training Goal Team is still reviewing the Roper Victim Assistance Academy Curriculum and will provide feedback prior to the next meeting.

VII. 2018 Crime Victims' Rights Events Debrief

Several Board members attended one of the regional memorial services on April 8. Members mentioned that the services were well attended and thoroughly planned out. Members noticed that there were several families at the services to recognize a loved one lost to a drug overdose.

Board members also attended the Crime Victims' Rights Conference on April 12 and thought that the workshops were very informative and there are no recommendations at this time for next year's conference.

VIII. Victim Services Discussion

Members recognized and discussed the issue of providing adequate transportation for victims. Ms. Allyn informed members of victim service agencies in other states that have partnered with riding sharing companies, such as Lyft, to provide transportation for victims. One agency in Michigan has now begun to provide bystander training to Lyft drivers. Members thought ride-sharing services could be an avenue to fill the gap of transportation services for victims but

would like to further analyze. Members will develop a workgroup to explore this topic in more detail and provide recommendations to the full Board.

IX. Old/New Business

Ms. Bond recommended a calendar of events for National Crime Victims' Rights week so that members are aware of all of the activities during the week. She will utilize GOCCP's calendar and build upon it for next year. It will be shared with members prior to National Crime Victims' Rights week.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Spicknall-Horner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, July 18, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Washington County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Building
500 Western Maryland Parkway
Hagerstown, MD 21740