

**Children's Justice Act Committee**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention**  
**May 18, 2017**  
**Baltimore County Circuit Court**  
**401 Bosley Avenue**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Judicial Conference Room (Room #412)**  
**Baltimore, MD, 21286**  
**1:00 pm- 3:00 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Michelle Chudow, M.D., FAAP, Crimes Against Children Unit, Baltimore County  
Judge Kathleen Cox, Circuit Court for Baltimore County  
Dr. Kerry Hannan, Baltimore Child Abuse Center  
Ed Kilcullen, Maryland CASA Association  
Joan F. Little, Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.  
Diane Shaffer, Talbot County Department of Social Services  
Joan L. Stine, State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and The Family Tree  
Krista Trahan, Baltimore County Department of Social Services  
Lt. Glen Wiedeck, Baltimore County Police Department

**Guests:**

Danni Davis, Baltimore County Department of Social Services  
Cathy Meyers, Center for Children

**Staff:**

Becky Allyn, 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, Introductions, and Chair's Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Members and staff introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes (March 2017)**

Kerry Hannon made a motion to approve minutes. Ed Kilcullen seconded the motion. Members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**III. Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors**

Danni Davis spoke with members about the treatment program in Baltimore County geared towards treating children with problematic sexual behaviors. The program services children/young adults between the ages of 10-21. The program consists of a psychosexual risk assessment and subsequent treatment. Ms. Davis explained that there has been a shift in juvenile

offending behavior with a generational exposure to new technology, such as smart phones, that allow for pornographic material to be displayed and exchanged.

There has been a noted increase in the severity of the known problematic sexual behaviors and the duration of the problematic sexual behaviors among the youth evaluated by the program. Juveniles who have been assessed by the program report having been exposed to explicit sexual imagery prior to sexually offending, in addition to experiencing other developmental adversities. Exposure to pornography has increased dramatically, with 100% of program youth reporting early exposure to pornography (either intentionally seeking it out or through friends, pop-up ads, or parental exposure). The treatment program has a small staff, and Ms. Davis spoke about extra support to meet the needs of the program and to provide services to a wider age-range of children. Traditional trauma-focused treatment modalities, including Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Instinctual Trauma Response (ITR) with a strong family component are recommended for the program's success.

Cathy Meyers, Executive Director of the Center for Children, stated that the Center operates within four counties in Southern Maryland. The Center utilizes “OPTIONS”, a treatment program for children with problematic sexual behaviors. This evidence-based treatment program consists of 18 sessions which occur weekly with the youth. The center has served 12 children using this program. Ms. Meyers spoke about the need to educate parents on distinguishing problematic sexual behavior from normal developmental behavior in children. She recommended to the Committee that they support a cohort of trained professionals in Maryland that can provide training to staff and parents about problematic sexual behaviors amongst children and youth.

#### **IV. Strategic Planning- Outcomes and 3-Year Assessment**

Mrs. Wheeler shared survey results of current objectives and measures for the committee. The results indicated that most committee members who took the survey agreed to continue with the current objectives and measures. These objectives will be the framework for the strategic plan on child victims.

Members agreed to add “youth with problematic sexual behaviors” to “Objective 4: Enhance interventions for child abuse or neglect victims who have physical, mental, and/or behavioral disabilities, cognitive impairments or other serious health conditions...”. The subject of human trafficking was mentioned extensively by participants, particularly in proposed prevention methods and housing for victims of human trafficking. Youth residing in group homes were identified as the most vulnerable victims of human trafficking. Participants spoke about the necessity for enhanced training among frontline workers of group homes, residential treatment centers and other similar facilities that serve human trafficking victims. Mrs. Wheeler recommended more trauma-informed training for therapists and treatment specialists. Ultimately, participants agreed not to include human trafficking in the strategic plan for next year, citing the magnitude of the topic and the amount of resources and time necessary to tackle human trafficking as well as the already existing resources devoted to this area.

## V. Updates

- *State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)*

Joan Stine reported that the Council has conducted an evaluation of child abuse and neglect fatalities for the 2015 in an effort to draft recommendations for prevention for future cases. The Council is currently finalizing its annual report to be submitted to the Governor and Secretary of the Department of Human Resources.

- *Family Violence Council*

Becky Allyn discussed the new objectives for the Family Violence Council's Strategic Plan, which focuses on domestic violence. The objectives are: victims must be safe, victims must be self-sufficient, and victims must be aware. The Council is currently working to develop outcomes for each of these objectives.

Under the Council, the Healthy Teen Dating workgroup is examining curriculums in public schools that cater to proper, healthy dating among teenage students. School systems have been surveyed and additional follow-up with individual schools is underway. The ultimate goal of this workgroup is to make recommendations to the full Council and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention around the best practices for healthy teen dating curriculums.

- *Membership Subcommittee*

The Children's Justice Act Committee has a current vacancy for a professional who is experienced in working with homeless children and youths (as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

## VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

July 20, 2017\*

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Howard County Library, Miller Branch

9421 Frederick Rd

Ellicott City, MD 21042

\*This is a mandatory grant review meeting