2017 MARYLAND CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS CONFERENCE

April 7, 2017
Turf Valley Resort
Ellicott City, Maryland
AGENDA

8–9 a.m.  Registration

9–9:15 a.m.  Welcome – Steve Kelly, Chair, Maryland State Board of Victim Services

9:15–9:30 a.m.  Introduction of the Governor – V. Glenn Fueston, Jr., Executive Director, Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention

9:30–10 a.m.  Remarks & Governor’s Victim Assistance Awards Presentation – Governor Larry Hogan

  • Vincent Roper Memorial Award
  • Henry Gleim Memorial Award
  • Virginia Mahoney Memorial Award
  • Proclamations

10–10:15 a.m.  Introduction of the Keynote Speaker – Steve Kelly

10:15–10:45 a.m.  Keynote Address – Lisa Spicknall-Horner, Member of the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, Advocate and Domestic Violence Survivor

10:45–11 a.m.  Break

11 a.m.–12 p.m.  Workshop Session I

  • Child Sex Trafficking in Maryland (Crystal Room) Amelia Rubenstein, University of Maryland School of Social Work
  • Domestic Violence and Housing: National Landscape, Trends, and Innovation (Tiffany Room) Debbie Fox, MSW, National Network to End Domestic Violence
  • Adversity in Childhood: What We Know and Why We Should Care? (Wedgewood Ballroom) Lynn Davis, MS, NCC, Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County, and Anne Soule, MA, Mental Health Association of Frederick County

12–1 p.m.  Lunch (on your own)

1–2 p.m.  Workshop Session II

  • What’s Next? Engagement and the Coordination of Services after Recovery of Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking (Crystal Room) Dr. Renee G. Murrell, Federal Bureau of Investigation
  • Measures of Success (Tiffany Room) Jeanne Yeager, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, and Janice Miller, MSW, LSCW-C, House of Ruth Maryland
  • Thinking Broadly: The Critical Need for Civil Legal Aid in Helping Victims of Crime in Maryland (Wedgewood Ballroom) Reena K. Shah, J.D., M.P.A., Maryland Access to Justice Commission; Cheryl L. Hystad, Civil Justice, Inc.; Samantha McGovern, Senior Legal Services; and Brian Dittmeier, Disability Rights Maryland

2–2:15 p.m.  Break

2:15–3 p.m.  Workshop Session III

  • Labor Trafficking: Common Indicators, Investigative Challenges, and Support (Crystal Room) Special Agent Vaughn Harper, Department of Homeland Security
  • Cyber Crimes (Tiffany Room) Vince DeVivo, U.S. Attorney’s Office
GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN

Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. was inaugurated as the 62nd governor of the State of Maryland on January 21, 2015. He is only the second Republican governor in Maryland in nearly 50 years, and the first Maryland governor from Anne Arundel County to be elected in over 100 years.

Prior to being elected, Governor Hogan worked in the private sector for more than 25 years as a successful Maryland business owner. Frustration with the out-of-touch leadership in Annapolis led him to found Change Maryland, the largest nonpartisan organization in state history, dedicated to bringing fiscal responsibility and common sense to Maryland state government.

On January 12, 2017, Governor Hogan announced the administration’s Justice for Victims Initiative, a series of proposals to help prevent future victims of crime, protect Maryland’s most vulnerable citizens, and stop repeat offenders. The Justice for Victims Initiative includes proposed legislation that will help prevent repeat sexual predators, protect victims of human trafficking, provide transitional housing for victims of crime, and toughen penalties for repeat drunk drivers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lisa Spicknall-Horner

Lisa Spicknall was a stay-at-home mom until circumstances in 1999 changed her life. In the 16 years since, Lisa’s personal, professional, and volunteer experiences have touched thousands throughout the state of Maryland and the country. Lisa’s professional experiences as a victim advocate have included assisting victims of violent crimes as they navigate the often treacherous and difficult court process. Lisa has experience working with local and state agencies to enact peace orders and to provide critical training to staff on numerous topics, including domestic violence and death notification. Lisa is a recognized speaker throughout Maryland and has presented for numerous federal agencies, including the United States Department of Justice and the FBI. She has received numerous awards, including the 2002 Maryland Governor’s Victim Assistance Award and People Magazine’s Hero’s Among Us in 2006. Currently, Lisa is the state program director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. She is a certified death notification trainer and has extensive training in grief, trauma, and crisis response. Lisa is married and she and her husband reside in Maryland with their two sons.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES & WORKSHOP OVERVIEWS

WORKSHOP SESSION I

Child Sex Trafficking in Maryland

The goal of this workshop is to increase the understanding and knowledge of child sex trafficking and to enhance participants’ ability to identify cases of child trafficking in their particular practice setting. By the end of this training, participants will be able to describe the definition of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including common methods and manifestations; identify at least five risk factors which make youth vulnerable to trafficking; and describe how sex trafficking impacts victims.

Presenter: Amelia Rubenstein, Clinical Research Specialist, University of Maryland School of Social Work

Amelia Rubenstein, MSW, LCSW-C, is the clinical research specialist with the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI) at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. In implementing the goals of CSTVI, Rubenstein is dedicated to assisting the state’s child-serving agencies to address the issue of sex trafficking among system-involved youth. She previously co-founded the Anti-Trafficking Program at TurnAround, Inc., a victim services nonprofit in Baltimore, where she provided clinical services to survivors of human trafficking. Rubenstein’s clinical work and research on the issue of trafficking stemmed from her background in child welfare and gender-based violence. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Skidmore College and a Master of Social Work with a concentration in public policy and reproductive rights from Columbia University.

Domestic Violence And Housing: National Landscape, Trends, and Innovation

This workshop will review the national landscape with regard to the housing needs and available resources for survivors of violence. Additionally, it will review the trends in funding distribution and practices that are shaping service delivery and housing resources for survivors of violence, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent support housing, and flexible assistance. The presentation will highlight innovation in housing provision and allow time for questions.

Presenter: Debbie Fox, MSW, Senior Housing Policy and Practice Specialist, National Network to End Domestic Violence

Debbie Fox, MSW, has worked in the domestic and sexual violence movement for over 20 years with a focus on fundraising, organizational development, nonprofit administration, and domestic violence population-specific housing and economic justice programming. Most recently, she shared community leadership in the systems planning and implementation process for the domestic violence system in Portland, Oregon, working with all 13 domestic violence victim service providers to create a coordinated assessment for survivors to access housing, shelter, and eviction prevention, and shelter diversion programs. She has worked extensively on housing and economic justice issues, envisioning Oregon’s first
economic empowerment program at Bradley Angle, then creating the statewide Economic Justice program at the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She co-founded the statewide asset building initiative with the Individual Development Account program, Savings for Survivors, and founded Oregon’s first statewide Aspiring White Allies Committee in 2011 to address programmatic inequities that exist for communities of color in accessing domestic and sexual violence services. In her role as Multnomah County’s Domestic Violence Coordination Office program specialist, she oversaw all of the domestic violence housing, economic justice, and general victim service provider funding contracts for the county, totaling over 5 million. Working in two jurisdictions, both at Multnomah County and most recently, in the District of Columbia at the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV), Fox represented the domestic violence housing system in a variety of jurisdictional meetings with community-wide efforts to address and end homelessness in the Continuums of Care. At the DCCADV, she launched the Osnium WS development project to create a database district-wide reporting tool and organized the Domestic Violence Housing Continuum to coordinate their shelter and housing efforts. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Indiana University and Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas with high honors.

**Adversity in Childhood: What We Know and Why We Should Care?**

Participants will be introduced to foundational and recent research on the prevalence and outcomes of adverse childhood experiences, including neglect, abuse, and other exposures to violence. Impacts on brain development and subsequent function will be highlighted, as well as implications for a multidisciplinary response to recognizing and responding to survivors. Real-world experiences with raising awareness and building community involvement will be shared.

**Presenter: Lynn Davis, MS, NCC, Director, Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County**

Lynn Davis is the director of the Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County, having joined its multidisciplinary team of professionals and community volunteers in 2013. The mother of four grown children, Davis has worked with children, families, and schools since 1994, developing and supervising initiatives in the areas of child abuse prevention, school violence prevention, Native American education, and adult mental health. It was her seven-year experience establishing peer support and employment programs for adults with serious mental health challenges that opened her eyes to the prevalence and impact of trauma in the histories of those she served, sparking her passion to do something beyond “treatment as usual.” Significant research and recent findings in neuroscience have made it possible to more fully understand the biological impact of trauma on the developing brain, how this affects physical and behavioral health throughout life, and what we can do to protect potential. With a Master’s degree in mental health counseling, Davis combines administrative duties with direct service, providing neurofeedback training to support the healing of survivors of childhood trauma while also collaborating with a broad-based coalition of Frederick County professionals committed to preventing the experiences that lead to traumatic stress.

**Presenter: Anne Soule, MA, Director, Family Support Services, Mental Health Association of Frederick County**

Anne Soule joined the Mental Health Association in 2014 to support the agency’s work serving children and families in Frederick and Carroll Counties through the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Supervised Visitation, Parent Coaching, and Home Visiting programs (Healthy Families America). She also is currently an adjunct professor with Lynn Davis at Mount Saint Mary’s University, co-teaching a class titled, “Children and Trauma.” Soule has been working in human services since 2003 and has many years of experience managing people, projects, and programs. Her experience includes working in hospice, with homeless adults and families, and low-/no-income adults trying to go back to school to earn a degree. She serves on several committees, councils, and advisory boards, all focusing on the long-term health and well being
of children. Soule began working with Lynn Davis in late 2015 to raise awareness around childhood adversity and compel stakeholders across Frederick County to invest more in the earliest stages of life by supporting parents and children. She has a Master’s degree in adult learning from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a minor in fine arts from the University of Tampa. She lives in Braddock Heights, has been married for 30 years, and is the proud mother of two grown children and two large Labrador retrievers that think they are goats.

WORKSHOP SESSION II ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What’s Next? Engagement and the Coordination of Services after Recovery of Minor Victims of Human Trafficking

This workshop offers a step-by-step account of FBI victim services immediately following recovery. It chronicles the collaborative efforts between various federal, state, and local agencies, including the challenges of working with the systems, families, and victims of human trafficking.

Presenter: Dr. Renee G. Murrell, Victim Specialist, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dr. Renee G. Murrell entered duty with the FBI in 1979 and is currently assigned to the Office of Victim Assistance as the victim specialist for the Baltimore Division. A critical component of her duties involves developing partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies to provide comprehensive services and support to victims of crimes.

From 2000-2007, Dr. Murrell served as the foreign operations specialist for the FBI’s Office of International Operations and assisted in a program designed to combat human trafficking in southeast Europe. It was during her work with the overseas community that she began to understand the correlation between human trafficking and modern-day slavery. However, it is her assignment in Baltimore where she witnesses the devastating impact of human trafficking on U.S soil.

In her role assisting victims of crimes, Dr. Murrell has assisted victims of the the Pulse Nightclub shooting, the Charleston, SC shooting, the Boston Marathon bombing, and the Washington Navy Yard shooting. She received the 2013 FBI’s Director Award for her distinguished service assisting victims in Sandy Hook, CT. Dr. Murrell received her undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and completed her graduate studies at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She received her Ph.D. in human services at Capella University. Her dissertation topic addressed the need for adequate placement and after-care for minor victims of trafficking in Maryland following recovery.

Measures Of Success

In 2012, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation asked House of Ruth Maryland, a large, urban/suburban intimate partner violence organization, to develop a model that captured the true success of working within the intimate partner violence field. The model created, Measures of Success, is based on House of Ruth Maryland’s many years of experience and can be scaled to large or small programs, including those with limited resources.

In 2014, the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, a small, rural intimate partner violence organization, also adopted Measures of Success. Together, House of Ruth Maryland and the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence are now training all interested Maryland providers of intimate partner violence on how to implement the model. This workshop will take participants through the development of the Measures of Success model, share indicators that programs can use to measure the success of their work, discuss implementation of the model within two geographically diverse organizations, and assist participants in identifying how their own interventions fit into the model.
Presenter: Jeanne Yeager, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

Jeanne Yeager has been with the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence for 20 years and has over 28 years of experience in the field of domestic violence. Yeager, an innovator in her field, has an extensive background as an administrator, program developer, manager, and executive director. She has been recognized for her work on behalf of domestic violence victims with a “Governor’s Victim Assistance Award” and an “Outstanding Achievement Award” from the Lt. Governor’s/Attorney General’s Family Violence Council, the 2006 Henry Gleim Memorial Award from the State Board of Victim Services, and was named one of Maryland’s Top 100 women by The Daily Record in 2006 and 2008. Since 2005, she has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Maryland State Board of Victim Services and the Family Violence Council. In 2016, Governor Hogan appointed her as the chair of the Family Violence Council.

Presenter: Janice Miller, MSW, LSCW-C, Director of Programs and Clinical Services, House of Ruth Maryland

Janice Miller has worked with victims of gender-based violence for the past 26 years and is considered an expert in the field. As the director of programs and clinical services for the House of Ruth Maryland, she oversees House of Ruth Maryland’s victim service programming, including the 24-hour hotline, outreach to victims referred after a police-involved incident (Lethality Assessment Program), and a food pantry in Baltimore County providing outreach to the Latina community; service coordination, providing individualized one-stop service coordination for all intimate partner violence survivors in both English and Spanish; individual and group therapy for adults, children, and families; and residential services, including temporary hotel placements, an 84-bed emergency and transitional housing program, and an innovative community based transitional housing program (Safe Homes Strong Communities) that she developed. Miller’s strength lies in developing programs that seek to maximize client strengths and ownership of their potential, while providing new paths to success. She currently sits on the Baltimore City Continuum of Care Board, has presented regionally and nationally on innovative programming, and contributes to thinking and policy around the intersections of service provision and victim safety and autonomy. She also serves as the project lead on House of Ruth Maryland’s Measuring Success Outcomes Project to implement state-wide universal indicators of success for victim/survivors of intimate partner violence, their abusive partners, and the communities in which they live.

Thinking Broadly: The Critical Need for Civil Legal Aid in Helping Victims of Crime in Maryland

Proposed by the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, this panel will highlight the broad array of case types, in addition to domestic violence and sexual assault, where civil legal aid can be critical to enabling victims of crime to extricate themselves from situations of fraud, abuse, and neglect. The panel will focus on the breadth of existing legal services offered to victims of crime in Maryland, the value of these services, and explore in-depth issues related to consumer fraud and abuse and neglect of disabled and elderly individuals.

Presenter: Reena K. Shah, J.D., M.P.A., Executive Director, Maryland Access to Justice Commission

A long-time advocate of social justice and social change, Reena Shah is currently the executive director of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, where she is charged with uniting leaders to drive reform and innovation to make the civil justice system accessible, user-friendly and fair for all Marylanders. Prior to coming to the commission, she was a staff attorney in the Housing and Consumer Law Unit and then the first director
of the Human Rights Project at Maryland Legal Aid. She went to law school after a few years in public policy and international development, during which period she worked on Capitol Hill for U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. She also worked in a local Kenyan non-governmental organization and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal. Reena earned a B.A. from The George Washington University, a M.P.A. from Princeton University, and a J.D. from University of Maryland Carey Law School.

**Presenter: Cheryl L. Hystad, Executive Director, Civil Justice, Inc.**

Cheryl Hystad is the executive director of Civil Justice, Inc., a nonprofit organization that works to increase the delivery of legal services to low- and moderate-income Marylanders through a network of solo and small firm lawyers who are committed to increasing access to justice for underserved communities. Prior to joining Civil Justice, Inc., Hystad was the director of advocacy at Maryland Legal Aid, was a founder and first executive director of the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, and taught at the University Of Baltimore School Of Law’s Civil Clinic. Throughout her career, she has focused on consumer litigation and advocacy on a variety of issues, including predatory lending, mortgage foreclosures, debt collection, automobile repossessions, and bankruptcy.

**Presenter: Samantha K. McGowan, Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Elder Justice Legal Fellow Senior Legal Services**

Samantha K. McGovern has been the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Elder Justice Legal Fellow at Senior Legal Services since September 2016. Senior Legal Services is a joint program of the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Baltimore Bar Foundation, Inc. Elder Justice AmeriCorps is the first program of its kind to provide high-quality legal services to low-income older adults who have been victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The program is the result of a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Justice, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Equal Justice Works.

Prior to becoming an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Elder Justice Legal Fellow, McGovern was a judicial law clerk to Judge Shirley M. Watts of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. She obtained her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law and her M.A. from Temple University.

**Presenter: Brian Dittmeier, Victims of Crimes Attorney, Disability Rights Maryland**

Brian Dittmeier is the victims of crimes attorney with Disability Rights Maryland, the state’s protection and advocacy system. Dittmeier investigates instances of abuse and neglect within state-licensed group homes and service providers for individuals with developmental disabilities. He also advocates for stronger training and prevention for both individuals and provider staff. Prior to joining Disability Rights Maryland, Dittmeier worked on disability rights litigation with AARP and with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence at Tahirih Justice Center.
Labor Trafficking: Common Indicators, Investigative Challenges, and Support

Labor trafficking is one of the most difficult crimes to detect. It has many faces and can be found in all regions of Maryland. This workshop will highlight common indicators, investigative challenges, and support available for victims of labor trafficking.

Presenter: Vaughn Harper, Special Agent, Department of Homeland Security

Special Agent (SA) Vaughn Harper of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is assigned to the HSI Baltimore Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Group. SA Harper conducts investigations and provides human trafficking-related training and outreach. SA Harper has been a law enforcement officer for over 19 years, starting his career as a police officer in Maryland before joining the federal service.

Cyber Crimes

The online world is the new frontier for criminals and sexual predators. Educating our children about safe internet practice is essential for all parents. This workshop will highlight how online presence makes children susceptible to cyber crimes and predators.

Presenter: Vince DeVivo, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Cyber Crimes

Vincent DeVivo serves as the community outreach specialist for the United States Attorney’s Office, District of Maryland, where he provides public safety programming and crime prevention efforts to our communities.

DeVivo is a certified Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions instructor and Gang Awareness Trainer, senior member of the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Prevention Board, and an executive board member for the Maryland Crime Prevention Association. He served on the Maryland State Department of Education workgroup that developed a statewide model policy on gangs and similar destructive group behaviors. During his 15 years as an educator, DeVivo helped expand strategies for school resource officers and served as a facilitator for School Crisis Management and Crisis Response Teams. Prior to his return to the United States Attorney’s Office, he served as the school outreach coordinator for the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute.

Law Enforcement: How to Recognize and Respond to Human Trafficking Incidents

This workshop teaches law enforcement officials about how they can use U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign resources and trainings to help recognize human trafficking, how to initiate human trafficking investigations, and how to protect victims. In this workshop, the state of human trafficking in the U.S. and why Maryland is a “hotbed” for this crime will be discussed, as well as how to recognize these crimes, especially during “routine” traffic stops or house calls and what to do when you suspect human trafficking.

Scott Santoro is currently a senior training program manager for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). In addition, he also is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign senior training advisor, managing its training programs. This includes training federal, state, and local law enforcement about human trafficking, drug-endangered children, and unaccompanied children illegally crossing the U.S. border.

Prior to coming to FLETC, Santoro was a prosecuting attorney for over 15 years, working in the Seattle area. He also has more than 18 years of law enforcement training experience.

Notable projects he has led include a computer-based training program for state, local, tribal, and campus officers to identify indicators of human trafficking; a second web-based course to train all DHS personnel about human trafficking; an advanced human trafficking course for federal agents and prosecutors; and training for ICE field office juvenile coordinators. Santoro produced two roll-call training videos that show how learning about immigration relief for victims of crime provides a benefit to law enforcement. Recently, he trained foreign law enforcement on human trafficking in six countries, including Cambodia, Thailand, and Portugal.

Workshop Session 1 Addendum – Child Sex Trafficking in Maryland

Presenter: Nadine M Finigan-Carr, Ph.D., University of Maryland School of Social Work

Nadine Finigan-Carr, Ph.D. is a prevention research scientist focused on the application of behavioral and social science perspectives to research on contemporary health problems, especially those that disproportionately affect people of color. Her scholarship is grounded in theories and methods found primarily in the field of health behavior change among individuals and the environments that support or impede chronic disease prevention or management, injury, and violence. More specifically, she has focused on adolescent risk behaviors and their determinants. Dr. Finigan-Carr began her career as a classroom teacher where she quickly realized that teaching was more than being aware of the educational needs of her students but also involved considering the physical and mental health needs. Currently, Dr. Finigan-Carr is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work. In this position she has research projects at both the state and federal levels designed to intervene with system involved youth – those in foster care or the juvenile justice system. These youth have a double vulnerability – adolescence, a critical stage marked by increased risk for negative social and behavioral outcomes including aggression and sexual risk behaviors; and, being removed from their families of origin.