

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

## ATTENDEES

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Ellen Alexander, Barbara Bond, Walter T. Coryell, Jessica Dickerson, Jeanne Cooper on behalf of Carolyn F. Edmonds, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, R. Gery Hofmann, Patricia Marshall, Margery Patten, Cindy Pease on behalf of Sandy Roberts, Debra Tall, Deborah A. Unitus, Frank R. Weathersbee, and Virginia Wolf.

**STAFF:** Shirley Haas, Anne Litecky, and Nakita Long.

**GUESTS:** Michael Cohen

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER:** Barbara Bond began the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

## RETREAT REPORT/MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: Move to approve Retreat Report of October 6, 2011 and Minutes of December 7, 2011.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

## STATE BOARD RETREAT ASSESSMENT

- ❖ Sandy Bromley, Retreat Facilitator, reviewed the Retreat Report.

### ➤ New Business

- Board members were encouraged to participate and speak up during open meetings.
- The use of electronic devices during the meeting was discussed. It was recommended that an announcement be made at the beginning of each meeting reminding individuals to be courteous of others with the use of their electronic devices.
- A Standing Committee sign in sheet was circulated for Board members to sign up to be a part of a committee. Once the Governor appoints a new Board Chair, the Committee Chairs will be confirmed by the new Chair.

### ➤ Revisiting Recommendations

#### ▪ Grant Review Process

- Board members were asked how they felt about revisions to the Grant Policies and Procedures, the NOFA, score sheet and independent reviewers. However, members were unable to comment completely as the NOFA was recently posted and the entire process has not yet been completed.
- It was recommended to track “good” unfunded applications as a way of demonstrating a need for more money to fund programs.
- A suggestion was made to have Board members accompany GOCCP Grant Monitors on site visits to evaluate existing grantees.

#### ▪ Perceived Conflicts of Interest

- The Nominations Committee was asked to be diverse when selecting new Board members.
- Ensure that committees are multidisciplinary.
- Use of Conflict of Interest forms helps avoid actual conflicts.

#### ▪ Meeting Location Rotation

- Members were urged to be actively involved in coordinating statewide Board meetings in different regions throughout Maryland. (See Next State Board Meetings).

- Email blasts will be sent inviting local persons/agency representatives to attend the Board meeting so they can get to know about the Board and the Board can learn about local services in various jurisdictions
- **Compliance with Mandates**
  - List State Board mandates on all meeting Agendas.
  - A 2009-2010 Biennial Report was last filed, however the mandate says the Report should be done annually. Board members volunteered to be on the Committee and those Committee members should coordinate a meeting and commence preparing the next annual reports.
- **2012 Next Steps**
  - Board members were encouraged to meet with their new Committees.
  - Due to time constraints members agreed that the present Committee chairs would continue to act in their positions until new chairs are selected.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ❖ Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

- The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon will be held on May 4, 2012 at Club Meade in Fort Meade, Maryland from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.
- Music will be played by Meade High School students.
- William "Bill" Johns will photograph the event again this year.
- The keynote speaker will be Jill Harrington-LaMorie, LCSW, DSW, Senior Lead Field Researcher/Grief Counselor for the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress.
- The cost for the luncheon will remain \$30.
- Reminder: Nominations are due February 17 and information may be obtained on the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention's (GOCCP) website at [www.goccp.maryland.gov](http://www.goccp.maryland.gov).

### ❖ Annual Memorial Service

- The Annual Memorial Service will be held on Sunday April 22, 2012.
- Theme: "Something Beautiful Remains"
- Hosts: Caroline, Charles, Howard and Washington Counties State's Attorney's Offices.
- The hosts are working to secure locations for their regional service.
- Board members were asked to volunteer and attend a Memorial Service to present a proclamation. The volunteers for each region are as follows:
  - Northern Region - Howard County- Ellen Alexander
  - Eastern Region- Caroline County – R. Gery Hofmann
  - Southern Region - Charles County – Patricia Marshall and Margery Patten
  - Western Region - Washington County – Linda Fleisher and Rea Goldfinger

### ❖ Nominations Committee

- The Nominations Committee received applications/resumes from three candidates for the vacant State Board Chair position.
- The Committee recommended Ellen Alexander as the first choice for the Chair position.
  - Motion: Move to make a recommendation to the Governor to appoint Ellen Alexander as Chair the State Board.
  - Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.
- The Chair of the Nominations Committee will draft a letter to the Governor expressing the Board's recommendation.
- A recommendation was made to amend the current policy for appointing a new Chair in the future by having the final three candidates present in person to the full Board.

- Motion: Move to amend the current policy for appointing a new Chair in the future by having the final three candidates present in person to the full Board.
- Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

#### ❖ **Legislative Committee**

- Board members were provided a copy of Victims Bills of Interest and 2012 Proposed Legislation Chart with a synopsis of each bill.
  - SB 122 – Courts & Judicial Proceedings- Crime Victims and Witnesses Funds – Court Costs
    - The Board drafted a letter to the Judicial Proceedings Committee in support of SB 122 and a proposed Amendment that is sponsored by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).
      - The proposed Amendment would increase the current cap on court costs deposited into the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the State Victims of Crime Fund.
    - Motion: Move to send letter to the Judiciary on behalf of the Board in support of SB 122 with proposed amendment.
    - Vote: Seconded and approved with no dissenting votes and 3 abstaining: Cooper, Dickerson, and Unitus.
 

(It should be noted that the abstentions of this Motion were not done on record at the time of the meeting. However, at the conclusion of the meeting, the three individuals abstaining acknowledged that they had abstained from voting on this Motion.)
    - Kristen Mahoney, Executive Director of GOCCP, will testify at hearing on February 2, 2012 in support of SB 122.
  - HB 160 – Motor Vehicles – Towing Practices and Procedures
    - Currently, HB 160 has no victim component. Victims whose vehicles are stolen and abandoned are often revictimized having to pay for towing and storage charges to recover their vehicle.
    - Patricia Marshall was asked to speak with and arrange a meeting with Delegate Doyle Neiman and Delegate Charles Wilson to discuss sponsoring an amendment that will include a provision for victims in HB 160.
    - This bill is set for hearing February 7, 2012.
  - HB 8/SB 175 – Crimes – Electronic Communication – Harassment
    - HB 8/SB 175 would include some electronic communications as harassment crimes and set penalties.
    - The Board was advised that due to time constraints, a letter of support was sent to the House Judiciary in support of HB 8.
    - The Board was further advised that the same letter will be forwarded to the Judicial Senate Committee in support of cross-file SB 175.
    - SB 175 is scheduled for hearing on February 2, 2012.
- A priority bill for the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and the State’s Attorneys’ Association proposes to add strangulation as a First Degree Assault crime. There is no bill number as of yet.
- State Board members are urged to contact the Legislative Committee with suggestions, ideas and feedback.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

#### ❖ **NEXT STATE BOARD MEETING(S)**

- Board members were provided with a 2012 Meeting Planner.
- The Board discussed holding the Board meetings in different regional locations in 2012.
  - March 7 – Baltimore County Library - Catonsville Branch

- May 2 – Eastern Shore (R. Gery Hofmann will secure location)
- July 11 – Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters
- September 5 – Western, MD (Ellen Alexander will secure location)
- November 7 – Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

**The next Board meeting will be held at  
Baltimore County Public Library  
Catonsville Branch- Community Meeting Room  
1100 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228-5092  
Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.**