

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Ellen Alexander, Bonnie Ariano, Anne Bean, Barbara Bond, Ed Parker for Tammy Brown, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, Rhea Harris, Sheriff Gary Hofmann, Scott Keller, Molly Knipe, Patricia Marshall, Margery Patten, Cindy Pease, Debra Tall, Deborah Unitas and Virginia Wolf.

STAFF: Anne Litecky.

GUESTS: Tazeen Ahmad, Scott Beard, Erricka Bridgeford, Russell Butler, Michael Cohen, Jessica Powers-Heaven, Kimberly Herndon, Michelle Lee, Karen Mlynarick, Joan Nairn, Michelle Schaffer, Erin Shifflet and Terry Sullivan.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Ellen Alexander, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

MINUTES:

- **Motion:** January 8, 2014 State Board meeting minutes
- **Vote:** approved and seconded with no corrections.

Guest Presenter, Joan Nairn, Enterprise Program Manager with Judicial Information Systems

- The Maryland Electronic Court (MDEC) project will create a single Judiciary-wide integrated case management system that will be used by all state court systems
- Courts will collect, store and process records electronically, and be able to instantly access complete records as cases travel from District Court to Circuit Court and on to the appellate courts
- The MDEC system will ultimately become “paper-on-demand,” that is, paper records will be available when specifically requested
- The system will aid in public safety. All protective and peace orders will be processed directly into the system. Judges will have the capability to see if offenders have protective and peace orders in other counties
- Notification of court hearings and case updates will be sent via email to registered victims and all parties involved in the case
- AOC is currently working on the capability to shield addresses and names of victims and witnesses from anyone but court officials.
- Juvenile cases will not be visible
- Attorneys will have remote access allowing them to make court filings from anywhere offering wi-fi. This will reduce the processing time of documents
- The project is proposed to be implemented in Anne Arundel County on October 13, 2014. After six months MDEC will begin in a new county every three months as follows: Upper Eastern Shore, Lower Eastern Shore, Baltimore County, Western and Finish in Southern.
- If you would like more information please visit mdec@mdcourts.gov

- SB 922/ HB 1245: If passed, mandate crime victim pamphlets will require revision. A meeting between State Board and MDEC will be necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members are reminded to actively participate in at least one State Board committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

❖ Grant Committee

- Thirty (30) applications for the FY2015 Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) and two (2) applications for Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) funds have been received
- Five (5) reviewer groups met and made funding recommendations to the Grant Committee, who in turn submitted these recommendations to the full Board.

Motion: To accept the Grant Committee's funding recommendations for FY2015 MVOC Funding grant applications

Vote: Approved and seconded with no corrections or suggestions

❖ Legislative Committee

- Committee teleconferences are scheduled each Thursday at @ 2:30pm
- The committee is asking members and guests to submit priority Bills alerted to priorities for 2014
- HB31, SB272 (Alex's Law) allows victims/victim representatives to ask the court to speak directly to the court in addition to going through a prosecutor at sentencing and disposition hearings
 - State Board supported this bill and wrote a letter of support
- HB355 and SB864 are two different bills regarding programs for Homicide Survivors
 - State Board opposes SB864 because it is redundant of what the State Board is currently working on, including a needs assessment for families of homicide. A letter of opposition will likely be sent.
 - State Board is not taking a position on HB355
- HB306 requests enhanced penalties for crimes committed in the presence of a minor
 - State Board sent a letter of support
- HB307 changes the standard for judges to issue final protective and peace orders from clear and convincing evidence to a preponderance of evidence
 - State Board sent a letter of support
- HB803 will increase court cost to fund MVOC and CICB. Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center asked court cost to be raised by two dollars generating an increase in revenue of 2.2 million dollars. The entire two dollar increase would go directly to MVOC funds. Due to CICB being underfunded, it was asked if they could receive 50% of the increase. A proposed amendment was generated to increase the court cost by an additional dollar (\$3) to allow CICB to receive one dollar and MVOC to continue to receive two dollars. CICB Executive Director and Board Chair will meet with Chairman Frosh to determine the best way to execute this bill to benefit both funds
 - State Board will not take a position on this bill.

- SB512 will add a homicide survivor seat on the CICB Board. CICB, which already has a homicide survivor on it's Board will offer an amendment that the seat go to "any" victim not just homicide
- SB 830 extends the age of victims filing for a claim involving child abuse to twenty-five years old. This allows adult survivors to submit claims if there is good cause
- SB922 gives victims the opportunity to utilize the upcoming Maryland Electronic Court (MDEC) System by adding the current crime victim notification forms and pamphlets to the new system. Allowing crime victims access to their rights by law.
- HB397 authorizes respondents of a peace and protective order to file a written request to shield the fillings.
- MD Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) shared information on priority Bills. www.mcasa.org
- MD Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) shared information on priority Bills. www.mnadv.org
- MD Crime Victims Resource Center shared information on priority Bills. www.mdcrimevictims.org

AD HOC COMMITTEES

❖ **Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon**

- Date: April 3, 2014
- Time: 11:30 to 2:30 pm
- Location: La Fontaine Bleue Catering in Glen Burnie, MD
- Color: cornflower blue and black
- Keynote: Marlyn Evans, whose daughter was murdered in a domestic violence case, will share her story
- The commemorative Power Point from 2013, will run while guest are arriving
- Members from the Glen Burnie High School Jazz Band will be playing as guest are arriving
- The luncheon will be buffet style with stuffed chicken, seafood newburg and vegetable lasagna
- Tickets are \$28
- The committee has added a new award; The Vincent Roper Memorial Award will be presented posthumously
- 33 awards will be presented, along with the Virginia Mahoney Memorial and Henry Gleim Awards

❖ **Memorial Services**

- Sunday, April 6, 2014
- Hosts: Baltimore City, Calvert, Montgomery and Worcester Counties
- MVOC Funding assistance: \$1500 to the Northern and Southern hosts, \$1000 to the Eastern and Western hosts
- Hosts secured locations:
 - Northern-Digital Harbor High School
 - Southern-North Beach Volunteer Fire Department
 - Eastern-Ocean City Marlin Club
 - Western-Hilton Hotel Rockville
- Please contact the Committee Chair if you are a Board Member willing to attend a service

❖ **MD Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB)**

- Under the direction of Cindy Pease and Scott Beard there have been great improvements to the CICB.
 - Claim processing has decreased from 123 days to 83 days
 - Expedited funeral claims are being processed (up to \$2000) in 2-3 days (remaining balance \$3000 is issued to funeral directors within 6 weeks) with certain documents.
 - Since the Fall of 2011 \$4,274,000 has been saved by negotiating medical expenses for claimants
 - Referring emergency room doctors to file claims against the DHMH Trauma fund has saved \$600,000/year, resulting in a total savings of \$1,530,000 thus far
 - Enforcing the rule that CICB is a “last resort payee”, meaning workman’s compensation, medical assistance, medical insurance, etc. should be used prior to CICB paying claims
 - Michelle Lee, Victim Service Coordinator is instrumental in improving processing claims and working closely with families of homicide. In 2013, Michelle has seen, 455 homicides, 125 domestic violence, 191 assault, 38 sexual assault and 68 other victims. At times victims come in a state of distress and Michelle is able to lend a listening ear and provide resources for the victims
- It is projected that, after medical expenses negotiations and referring claimants to other funding resources, CICB will process over 6.9 million dollars in claims this year. With a federal match of \$1,139,000 CICB will have a total income of \$4,839,000. However with the amount of projected claims and a fixed cost (\$977,000), CICB is looking at a deficit of approximately 3 million dollars. Unfortunately, medical providers will have to bear the burden of this deficit. CICB is looking into providers turning away patients who are using CICB to pay medical expenses.

❖ **Unclaimed Restitution Collection**

- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Community Supervision:
 - As of January, 2014, total amount collected is up 45%
 - Increase of 85%-90% in court fee payments
 - Unclaimed restitution collected by the Comptroller is \$328,076
 - Closed –Hold accounts (accounts that can not be matched to victims) is 1.8 million dollars. \$328, 076 have been matched to victims.
- Department of Juvenile Services
 - Continuing to research and attempt to locate victims to pay unclaimed restitution previously collected

❖ **VINE**

- A VINE/Notification Workgroup is proposed to review and draft scripting for VINE notifications,
 - A separate work-group, will include APPRISS (VINE parent company) and Richard Hoffman, Compliance Officer, to work with Maryland Electronic Courts System.
 - VINE is used in courts, detention centers, DOC/ Parole and Probation and sex offender alerts
 - VPO (VINE Protective Order) is a separate system to let individuals know when protective and peace orders were served.
 - For more information please visit www.goccp.maryland.gov to learn more about these initiatives

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

❖ **UB Collaboration/Partnership**

- The partnership is going well. Weekly meetings are scheduled with a focus on Crime Victims Rights Week (CVRW), legislation, and grant applications
- Dr. Stanley's internship program is assisting the State Board with a Needs Assessment for Families of Homicide.

**MARYLAND CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS WEEK
Calendar of Events**

<http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/victim/documents/2014calendarofevents.pdf>

MEETING ADJOURNED: Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:25 p.m.

**The next Board meeting will be held on
Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 10am
At the Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters**