

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Ellen Alexander, Anne Bean, Barbara Bond, The Honorable Dario Broccolino, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, Rhea Harris, Capt. Brian D. Smith for Sheriff Gary Hofmann, Patricia Marshall, Margery Patten, Scott Beard for Cindy Pease, Chris Shank, Debra Tall, Deborah Unitus and Virginia Wolf.

STAFF: Anne Litecky and Monique Mitchell.

GUESTS: Scott Beard, Michael Cohen, Steven Kroll, Pauline Mandel, Laurie Rajala, Roberta Roper and Bonnita Spikes.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Ellen Alexander, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:07 a.m.

- Ellen welcomes the new Executive Director of GOCCP, Christopher Shank
 - Ellen thanks Mr. Shank for attending and states the Board is very dedicated to the plight of crime victims.
 - Mr. Shank states it's a pleasure to meet everyone; he has worked with some members before when he was in the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. On behalf of the Governor and GOCCP, he is looking forward to working with the Board.
 - Mr. Shank has been in the Legislature for sixteen (16) years; twelve (12) years in the House of Delegates, four (4) years in the State Senate, and has sponsored, co-sponsored and supported bills of interest for crime victims. This past year he has worked with Justice Fellowship, a restorative justice program. He is very interested in how we can put victims first and design a criminal justice system that works on the element of restorative justice.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Page 3 add "c" in "Fleischer"
- Deborah Unitus raised concerns about receiving two sets of minutes; and questioned why two sets were distributed.
- Anne stated the minutes were edited by Laurie Rajala and Amy Steinly- Marks at GOCCP. GOCCP has asked to review the minutes before it goes to the State Board.
- Deborah Unitus further stated that this is concerning and what has been said and agreed upon by the Board should not be sanitized or altered outside of the Board. Any content or ideas expressed by the Board should not be changed and is inappropriate.
- Laurie Rajala, Western Division Chief explained that the minutes were edited because GOCCP staff did not believe they accurately portrayed what was stated at the January meeting.
- The Chair was also concerned about the MVOC fund and the appearance that the Board made some inappropriate decisions that has brought down the balance. The second version removes the concern the members shared about the state of the MVOC Fund.

- It was asked if we (The Board) needed to make a motion that in the future, the minutes be brought to the Board first and any edits or concerns can be made known after the Board reviews the minutes.
- The majority of the members agreed that any concerns or edits should be made at the Board meeting; the Board does not want someone intervening.
- Deborah Unitus stated in her 40 years of experience with boards and councils she has never seen two sets of minutes sent out.
- The Chair stated that the State Board has never experienced this before so this is more of a discussion on the proper procedures that the minutes reflect what is actually said at the meeting. The Chair took a motion.
- MOTION: To reinstate the original meeting minutes that were not edited by GOCCP staff
 - All approved
 - One opposed
 - GOCCP Western Division Chief, Laurie Rajala stated that the Budget and Finance Manager is going to have a problem with what is in the original minutes, and questioned whether she should attend the next Board meeting.
 - It was suggested that the GOCCP Budget and Finance Manager submit something in writing or electronically to the State Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Grant
 - Awards for FY2016 1st year MVOC will not be awarded this year because of inadequate funds.
 - LSCV grants have gone through the Board's Grant review process and are pending GOCCP approval.
- Legislation
 - The committee was asked to come up with three priorities for 2015. The committee decided to work on one priority, a proposed Bill that will increase court costs and benefit MVOC and Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. A draft of this Bill was handed out.
 - There has been no increase since 1997.
 - The majority of the funds come from traffic courts.
 - Administrative Judicial visits will be scheduled.
 - The State Coordinator and GOCCP's Budget and Finance Manager will meet with AOC to discuss distribution of funds, as year to year MVOC balances are in question.
 - In the past, a former Chief Judge wrote a letter to all judges informing them not to waive court costs.
 - Linda Fleischer has offered to look into what part of Parole and Probation is collected.
 - At the present time, the committee does not have anyone sponsoring the Bill.
- Nominations- Debbie Tall
 - Steve Kroll- Maryland State of Attorney's Association- The Honorable Wes Adams was nominated by the MD State's Attorney's Association (MSAA). The Honorable Laura Martin resigned. He is waiting for the Attorney General to approve the nomination. Wes Adams is a former homicide detective in Prince George's County and was recently elected as Anne Arundel County State's Attorney.

- There are three (3) members up for renewal of pending GOCCP Executive Director's recommendation to the Governor's Appointments Office.
- There are currently two public member vacancies that will be posted soon.
- Public Awareness- Linda Fleischer
 - The committee is open for new members who are interested in joining.
 - The committee's priority is developing a state resource page linked to the Board's webpage.
 - The committee is working on creating informational flyers that can be placed on the webpage and downloaded on line for the public.
 - Member suggested information about the Board be posted at libraries.
 - The Committee will begin working on a calendar of events for board members to attend public events; this will assist the Board with more visibility in the communities.
 - It was suggested that links be added to other victim groups who already have event calendars.
- Governor's Luncheon
 - May 8th- Double Tree at Hilton, Annapolis, MD.
 - The committee is accepting nominations and the deadline has been extended to Monday, February 9th.
 - Only thirteen nominations have been received thus far.
 - The Governor has been invited through GOCCP's Public Information Officer.
 - The goal is to have 300 attendees; tickets will go on sale the last week of February.
- Memorial Service
 - Regional Memorial services will be held on Sunday April 19th.
 - Northern Region will be hosted by Harford County State's Attorney's Office. Services will be held at Aberdeen High School. (Linda Fleischer volunteered to attend)
 - Southern Region will be hosted by St Mary's County State's Attorney's Office. Services will be held at Waldorf Jaycee's. (Trish Marshall volunteered to attend)
 - Eastern Region will be hosted by Wicomico County State's Attorney's Office. Services will be held in Salisbury at Dodge Point.
 - Western Region will be hosted by Carroll County State's Attorney's Office. Services will be held at the Portico of St. John Church. (Ellen Alexander volunteered to attend)

OLD/NEW

- VINE
 - Quarterly Report for VINE
 - VINELINK.com has generated 91% of the registrations in the state.
 - The new VINE Mobile app can be downloaded from your app store on your mobile phone. The app is generating almost as many new registrations per month as VINEWatch by Victim Advocates.
 - New registration for Maryland VINE was up 5% in 2014 from 2013.
 - Maryland VINE sent 361,806 total notifications in 2014 via phone and email.
 - In 2014, offender new registrations were up 6.2 %, new registrations from the Courts were down 6.2%; Parole and Probation new registration were up 2.1%.
 - Challenges

- In October of 2014, Appriss was working with Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to perform resyncs (identifies any discrepancies in the systems). These resyncs created a large volume of missed notifications.
 - This was corrected by sending a custom notification to registrants informing them there was a change and the information was delayed.
 - Maryland Division of Corrections (DOC) is missing 800 to 1000 notifications each month, this may be due to a back dating problem with offender records through their case management system.
 - Appriss and DPSCS are researching the problem, by continuing to send resyncs and send the custom notifications to registrants who have been impacted.
 - Maryland has requested sex offenders prior to 1995 to be removed from the VINE notification system.
 - Appriss is working to remove all sex offenders from VINE.
 - Webinar sessions are held on VINEWatch, we will start sending out emails if you would like to attend.
 - Brochures for VINE have been ordered.
 - VINE Includes: 24 jails online, 1 DOC, 47 courts, 62,546 offenders, 379,000 cases, 214,000 parole and probation parolees and 10,215 sex offenders.
 - Annual fee for the VINE service is \$638,530
 - Sex offender service fees are \$104,410 per year
 - DOC and Courts service fees are \$449,120 per year
 - Parole and Probation service fees are \$55,000
 - Renewal Date for the current contract is October 31, 2015
 - DPSCS holds the contract for VINE.
 - GOCCP oversees the program maintenance and management of the VINE system.
 - ICOTS (Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System)
 - A new program that alerts victims if offenders on parole and probation move from state to state.
- Administrative Judicial Visits
- The State Board is asking the Chief Judge to send out a letter to Administrative Judges, but it has been delayed to coordinate member meetings with each of the District Court and Circuit Court Administrative Judges.
 - Members are asked to sign up to meet with Administrative Judges.
 - Anne will put together guidelines, a script and graphs.
 - Roberta Roper suggested the State Board present to the Judicial Conference.
- FY15 VOCA Update
- GOCCP is working on a planning session, a date has not been determined. The Chair and State Coordinator will be included in the session. The Western Division Chief informed the members that GOCCP has not received any updates from the federal government as far as distribution.

- It's being said, unofficially that the VOCA project period will be: current year plus five.
- VOCA has a 20% match, it's a possibility the federal government is going to expand the approved use of the funds (technology, equipment, etc.)
- Needs Assessment: Survivors of Homicide Phase II
 - There is nothing to update on the assessment.
 - A final assessment report should be completed by the end of February.
- 2015 State Board Priorities
 - Administrative and Judicial Visits
 - Administrative Office of the Courts Visits
 - Discrepancies with the MVOC funds and proper distribution
 - Chief Judge letter to the Administrative Judges
 - Maryland Electronic Courts
 - 2015 Legislative
 - Needs Assessment: Survivors of Homicide Phase II Report
 - Recruit Public Members
 - State Board Webpage
 - State Resource Webpage
 - Annual Memorial Services
 - Governor's Luncheon Committee

OPEN FORUM

- ProBono has begun their first teletherapy session in Harford County
- MSA and the MD Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) will have their annual 5K run to benefit the MNADV, the event will be held April 25th at Centennial Park. The cost is \$25.
 - A flyer will be distributed this week.
 - A member suggested the Board create a group to participate in the walk.
- Maryland Legislative for Women is having a legislation reception briefing on issues affecting women and families.
- A legislative action memo was filed on behalf of the Board with the Attorney General to get discussion going concerning the increase in court cost Bill.
- Maryland Crime Victim Resource Center (MCVRC)
 - Survivors Support Network (SSN) is working on support groups for Survivors of Homicide.
 - The next SSN meeting is scheduled for March, 2015
- GOCCP has included the funds for the Survivors of Homicide Grant into their fiscal budget, intends to fund if approved. The NOFA will be posted in March or April.
- Maryland Sheriff's Association, Maryland Chief of Police, and Maryland Correction Administrative Association are having a reception on February 5th at 5pm.

❖ **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Guests and Board members are thanked for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:12pm.

REMINDERS

National Crime Victims Rights Week is April 19-25, 2015



2015 Annual Maryland Statewide Memorial Services is Sunday, April 19, 2015



Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon is Friday, May 8, 2015

**The next Board meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
Anne Arundel Police Department Headquarters**