

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Anne Arundel County Police Headquarters
8495 Veterans Highway
Millersville, MD 21108
July 19, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair
Barbara Bond, Vice Chair
Scott Beard
Dario Broccolino, Esq.
Jessica Dickerson
Lisa Spicknall-Horner
Molly Knipe
Adam Lippe, Esq.
Jill Ritter
Alonzo Robertson

Guests:

Shannon Berkey, Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)
Russell Butler, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC)
Michaele Cohen, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)
Heather Courtney, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office
Lisae Jordan, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
Steve Kroll, Maryland State's Attorneys' Association
Brad Powers, Administrative Office of the Courts
Shelley Spruill, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office
Jamie Walter, Administrative Office of the Courts

Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Don Hogan, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Megan McDermott, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Danielle Whitestone, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members were provided the minutes from the May 2017 meeting. Mr. Broccolino made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

III. Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Updates

Jessica Wheeler announced that Rebecca Allyn is now the Victim Services Coordinator and will be staffing the Board moving forward. Additionally, Ms. Wheeler announced that Danielle Whitestone is now the Juvenile Justice and Victim Services Coordinator and she will provide staff support to the Family Violence Council.

IV. Court Collections: Criminal Cases

Don Hogan informed the Board and guests of the statutes that require a portion of the court costs in criminal cases, and some traffic cases, to go to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF), the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund, and the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund. Court collections have drastically decreased and it is affecting these three funds. Because of this decrease in funds, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) does not have enough money to cover the claims to meet the needs of victims. In February 2017, CICB had to start delaying payment to victims. Scott Beard said this problem is under control at the moment because of the federal match funds but in about six months this problem will arise again.

Jamie Walter with the Administrative Office of the Courts provided members and guests with the *Analysis of the Maryland Judiciary's Criminal Injury Fund Compensation Collections and Criminal Filings- FY 2009-2016*. The Administrative Office of the Courts gathered and analyzed judiciary filings, case activity, and financial data to determine what portion of total CICF funding came from the Judiciary to provide context for any changes in Judiciary collected CICF funds.

Four notable findings were determined:

1. Criminal filings are down statewide
2. The total money paid from the Judiciary to the CICF from criminal cases remained relatively steady before 2015 and the per filing crime collection amount has increased in the past few years
3. There is a decline in District Court "Offense" collections
4. Criminal and traffic filings are decreasing

Ms. Walter and Mr. Beard will discuss this further, along with other relevant persons regarding CICF. Steve Kroll added that the Justice Reinvestment Act will most likely also contribute to a decreased number of case filings, along with speed cameras, diversion courts, and the continued effect of the Freddie Gray case.

Mr. Kroll stated that without increased funding for victim relocation, there will be major problems with witness intimidation. Shelley Spruill and Heather Courtney from the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office informed the group that the homicide rate in Baltimore has increased, causing the need for victim and witness relocation to increase by 80%. While there is an increase in homicide rates and need for victim and witness relocation, Victim Witness and Relocation funds have not increased. Mr. Beard will work with Ms. Spruill and Ms. Courtney to develop recommendations to remedy the issue for crime victim's compensation and relocation funding issues.

V. Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Discussion

Members met to draft goals and outputs for the four priority areas of the Board's strategic plan, which are: infrastructure, staff, training and technology. The goal teams reported on one important tactic or output for each of their goals to develop the Board's Annual Operating Plan.

The infrastructure goal team recommends the creation of a one stop shop web portal for services, such as the Maryland Community Services Locator. Ms. Wheeler noted that the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (Office) funds the Maryland Community Services Locator, which is a web portal for services. The Office is reviewing this service and looking for ways to make this or other services more efficient and widely used. Ms. Wheeler asked the goal team to provide recommendations for the Maryland Community Services Locator or a similar type of service. The Board will also focus on the issues outlined regarding CICB funds as part of the Strategic Plan.

For staffing, the output is to increase victim advocates, victim assistants and legal service professionals in Maryland.

The priority tactic for the training goal team is to review the Roper Victim Assistance Academy curriculum and create a survey that identifies what trainings are out there, what types of training are provided and when they take place.

The tactic for the technology goal team is to identify common outcomes across all victim services providers and ensure that each has a data collection system that can track those outcomes.

VI. Family Violence Council Updates

Rebecca Allyn informed the Board that the Family Violence Council approved the draft of the Council's Strategic Plan. The next steps for the Council's Strategic Plan is to expand upon the strategic planning workgroup to include representatives from law enforcement, state's attorneys' offices, the courts, probation, abuse intervention programs and legislative representatives. The workgroup will also focus on applying the plan to specific victim populations such as immigrant and non-English speaking victims, children exposed to family violence, and victims with disabilities.

VII. Old/New Business

Ms. Wheeler informed the Board that the Victim's Representative Notification Form (*HB 1071*) has been sent to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC). The Maryland PTSC is responsible for distribution and training law enforcement about the form.

Mr. Hogan stated that *HB 1526: Post-Sentencing- Victim Notification* expanded those included as victims for the purpose of parole release hearing notifications. Mr. Hogan added that *HB 1163: Conditional Release- Electronic Monitoring (Amber's Law)* requires the Board to include information regarding how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim state-away alert technology in its pamphlets. The Board will create a workgroup to draft this pamphlet.

Ms. Allyn stated that the number of new registrants for VINE has been steady for the past year, with about 4,000 new registrations per month. There was no significant change when VINE was transferred to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. In the future, Stanley Lofton, VINE Coordinator, will be invited to attend the meetings to report on VINE updates.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Follow-Up Items:

- The Board will create a workgroup to draft a pamphlet as required by *HB 1163: Conditional Release- Electronic Monitoring (Amber's Law)* to provide information on how to request an offender to be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology.
- Mr. Beard will continue working with Ms. Walter, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and Mr. Kroll to brainstorm the decreased court compensation collections. Mr. Beard will work with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office to develop recommendations for the decreased funds for Victim and Witness Relocation in the City.

NEXT MEETING:

October 4, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Anne Arundel County Police Headquarters

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