WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING
November 3, 2025
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES

Participating Members:
Mayor Lajan Cephas, Chair
Beyer Bullard
Tiana Davis
Derrell Frazier
Miya Horsey
Lori James
Jessica Port
Amanda Rodriguez
Chris Thompson

Staff:
Mary Abraham
Aubrey Gerhardt
Sydni Jenkins
Jennifer Krabill

Guests:
Delegate Sandy Bartlett
Wanda Frink-Little
Delegate Kym Taylor

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Krabill opened the meeting at 2:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. She shared that she spoke with those who expressed interest and met the requirements to serve as Chair, and GOCPP Executive Director Lennig appointed Mayor Cephas as SAG Chair as of November 1, 2025. Ms. Krabill turned the meeting over to Mayor Cephas.

Mayor Cephas thanked Ms. Krabill for her work on getting a new chair and shared her excitement to help lead this group to improve Maryland's youth justice system. A quorum was present as additional members joined the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes*

Mayor Cephas noted that minutes from the September 4, 2025 meeting were previously sent to members for review. Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the minutes as written, and Delegate Taylor seconded. The motion passed without objection.

III. CJJ Youth Justice in Action Conference

Mr. Bullard shared information about the CJJ Conference in October. He stated that over 30 states were represented at the conference, which allowed for networking opportunities for the Emerging Leaders and the SAG as a whole. Some of the key takeaways from the conference were the impacts of gun possession charges on youth and new ideas to push recruitment and retention for the Emerging Leaders as seen in California. Ms. Jenkins and Ms. Gerhardt agreed that the conference was very impactful and they are grateful for the opportunity to attend.

IV. Youth Charged as Adults - Compliance Update

Ms. Gerhardt provided an update to the group about the reasons for Maryland's noncompliance with 223(a)(11)(b) and the ongoing efforts with stakeholders to make systemic changes.

One example of a positive change was in a Montgomery County facility where the state was seeing violations due to a holding policy during court appearances. GOCPP worked directly with the Sheriff's office to update those policies to meet the revised JJDPA core protections. As a result, GOCPP does not expect any further violations from this reporting location. Ms. Gerhardt confirmed for the group that these violations were solely the result of outdated policies and could be fixed. This was one example of a small change that can impact the state's violation numbers. Mayor Cephas thanked those who are working to get Maryland back into compliance.

V. Recruitment and Appointments Updates

Ms. Krabill shared that the Appointments Office is responsible for all decisions about applications to any Governor's appointed council. These decisions are made after a thorough vetting process that considers a range of criteria. GOCPP is not always involved during this process, so it is important to reach out to Ms. Jenkins or Ms. Krabill if anyone is still awaiting a formal decision on appointment. The Office urged members to be aware of the attendance requirements for the SAG and its subcommittees, and to let staff know if there is an inability to attend a meeting.

The SAG is also looking for a new chair for the Racial and Ethnic Disparities subcommittee. Those interested should contact Ms. Omolola or Ms. Krabill for more information.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Emerging Leaders

Ms. Jenkins shared excitement about recruitment efforts; the ELC has included 5 more youth to bimonthly meetings. The group is also working on a newsletter based around different art forms for youth. The committee has a goal of starting the newsletter in January 2026.

B. R/ED

Ms. Krabill shared again that they are looking for a new chair for the subcommittee and that Ms. Omolola will share more information upon her return from vacation.

C. Grantee Engagement

The Grantee Engagement subcommittee is also looking for a chair to help guide the group. Those interested should contact Ms. Krabill and Ms. Jenkins. The primary goal for the subcommittee is to work with the current grantees to provide support and technical assistance with the grant or the program. The current grantees are largely new organizations to grant funding and may need significant assistance throughout the year. The office has been working one-on-one with grantees to make sure funding requirements are being met. Ms. Krabill also shared that site visits to the funded programs will be scheduled for early 2026. The specific information will be shared with the group once finalized and all members are welcome to attend.

It was reported that the Office did not receive the solicitation/NOFA from OJJDP for funding for FY2025. This is unusual based on previous release dates. However, the federal shutdown has had impacts on many different funding sources. The Office also did not receive a determination letter for compliance from OJJDP for the upcoming fiscal year, but additional information will be provided as soon as it is received.

VII. Roundtable

Ms. Davis asked what level of support is being given to the grantees as DJS is also engaged in technical assistance. It might be beneficial for the agencies to combine resources to increase available capacity for those grantees that need more help. Ms. Krabill shared that due to the different needs of each organization and program, each group has been getting one-on-one meetings with office grant staff. All the meetings are relatively similar in terms of content, but are structured around the specific needs of that organization. The Office is working on more general guides or short videos on the website for grantees to utilize on their own.

Ms. Frink-Little shared the efforts of DJS regarding youth charged as adults being ordered into juvenile facilities pre-disposition. An updated memorandum from Secretary Tolentino was distributed to all of the involved stakeholders to ensure a uniform process is in place across the state to communicate about these youth and the current capacity of DJS facilities. DJS also reported the ongoing collection of vital information for each agency and group involved in the system and will continue to dedicate resources to tracking this issue.

Mayor Cephas shared that she appreciates everyone's time and dedication to attending meetings and emphasized the importance of attendance and their point of view that they bring to the group.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Horsey seconded. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be on January 5, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.