Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council Meeting

July 24, 2024
Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Virtual
Subject: VIPP Grant Administration

Council Goals and Objectives

- To develop recommendations that guide the implementation of the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP) fund as established by the Public Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2018 (House Bill 432/Chapter 148).
- To support the establishment of outcome-based performance measures relating to awarded programs published on the legislatively required filterable data display.
- To review applications and recommend programs for funding based on best- and/or most promising practices for health and hospital-based violence reduction strategies, specifically gun violence, in Maryland.
- To provide oversight on the allocation of funds for the evaluation of the efficacy of funded programs.

Participating Members:

Bethany Young	**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP)**	**Chair**
Aisha Burgess	Baltimore City Health Department	Health
Kathryn Montgomery	University of Maryland, Baltimore	Higher Education
Lisa Spicknall	Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)	Gun Violence
Patti Norris	Annapolis Police Department	Police
Joseph Richardson	University of Maryland, College Park	Community/Hospital Based
Chief Marcus Jones	Montgomery County Police Department	Police

Staff:
Tatiana Reyes, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Centers of Excellence, GOCPP
James "Jim" Rhoden, Assistant Director, Centers of Excellence, GOCPP
Melissa Bitting, VIPP Coordinator, Criminal Justice, GOCPP

Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation, Executive, GOCPP
Alexandra Smith, BSCIP Program Coordinator, Criminal Justice, GOCPP

Guests:

Jack Pigman, Maryland State Police Intern

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcoming and introduction

A. Call to order
1. The meeting was called to order at **12:03 p.m.** by **Jim Rhoden**, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

B. Introductions
1. Council Members introduced themselves.
2. Melissa Bitting, the new VIPP Coordinator, and Bethany Young, the new designated Chair for the Council, were formally introduced.

C. The **April 15th, 2024** meeting minutes were approved.

II. Updates

A. FY25 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Updates: The deadline for applications was May 10, 2024, and applications were distributed to reviewers on May 28, 2024 with internal and external reviews being finalized on June 14, 2024. Award notifications are to be sent to recipients following Council approval.

B. FY25 Funding Recommendations: A total of $3,943,347 is recommended to fund 19 programs, nine of which are new applicants, while all FY24 VIPP recipients are being recommended for another year of funding. Six applicants are not recommended to receive funding. The applications were reviewed by three-person panels consisting of GOCPP staff, as well as Council members. Due to limited funding available and the overwhelming response in FY25 funding, the recommended award amount was determined based on potential impact, reviewers' comments, final score, and funding threshold.
1. Applicants that scored above 91 were recommended for funding at $200K; Applicants that scored between 85-90 were recommended for funding at $175K; Applicants who scored between 70-84 were recommended for funding at $150K; Applicants who scored between 60-69 were recommended for funding between $100K or $125K; Applicants who scored below 60 were not recommended for funding.
2. Those recommended for $200k include: Tree House CAC, St. Mary's County Health Department, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Anne Arundel County GVIT, MedStar Health Research, and the Greater Baybrook Alliance. Those recommended for $175,000 include: Lead4Life, Roca Baltimore, and MONSE. Those recommended for $150,000 include: The Association for the Public Defender of Maryland, KEYS Empowers,

and Kingdom Kare. Those recommended for $100-125,000 include: Let's Thrive Baltimore, One Love Life Center, DC National Association, Racial Justice NOW!, and My Communities Keeper. Those not recommended for funding were: The Nolita Project, Center for Children, YMCA, Prince George's County Office of the Executive, Tendea Family, and Prince George's County Hope in Action.

C. **Programs:** $1 million in general funds was added to the VIPP appropriation specifically for the University of Maryland Medical System for the Capital Region Violence Intervention Program at the Capital Region Medical Center. Funds not expended for this purpose may not be transferred to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

D. **Reports**: Section 4-906(c)(2) of the Public Safety Article requires our office to post a report on its website each year, as it relates to information reported by subrecipients of the VIPP Fund. Although the law does not require the submission of this report, our office must "notify" DLS once the post is made. The report has been sent to the Maryland General Assembly and is awaiting approval. Our office will perform a data extraction from the previous funding period in mid-August, which we will then disclose in our reports and on the GOCPP website. We have also begun analyzing the performance measures asked of VIPP recipients, aiming to ensure that the measures are applicable and comprehensive of all programs. The office plans to have a meeting with the Third Party Evaluators in the near future to further discuss and suggest amendments.

III. Q&A

A. Council members discussed future directions of the Council under the new GOCPP staff leadership. This included more participation and presentations from VIPP grant recipients and the Third Party Evaluators in Council meetings. technical assistance calls, as well as additional learning collaborative meetings.

B. The Council also discussed the overlap and complexities between the Third Party Evaluators, programs' own evaluations, as well as the VIPP grant performance measures, and how to identify best practices for evaluations. The Council agreed that this will take many more meetings and conversations, for now GOCPP staff will have meetings with the internal data team as well as third party evaluators to establish a plan for this.

C. Council members also discussed a possible need for new recipients to receive more support or technical assistance throughout the grant cycle. GOCPP will begin holding learning collaborative meetings with the VIPP subrecipients to meet staff, have open discussions, and ask any questions they may have. Council members and evaluators are invited to attend.

IV. Other Business

A. The Office is still waiting for 6 appointees to fill vacancies on the Council.

B. Next meeting is as follows:

- October 16, 2024 (hybrid)

V. Adjournment

A. The meeting was adjourned by **Jim Rhoden** at **12:47 p.m.**