Governor's Family Violence Council Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
1 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Co-Chair
Dr. Lillian Agbeyegbe, Survivor Advocate
Heather Amador for Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Vincent Schiraldi, Department of Juvenile Services
Jason Dowding, CASA Inc.
Debbie Feinstein, Esq., Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office
Lolita Gleaton for Secretary Rafael Lopez, Department of Human Services
Norwood Johnson, Survivor
Bryce Krasauskis for Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Pam Love, DP Love Enterprises
John McGinnis for Superintendent Carey Wright, State Department of Education
Lisa Nitsch, House of Ruth Maryland
Katie O'Malley, Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zachary Norfolk, Esq. for Attorney General Anthony Brown, Office of the Attorney General
Funsho Oparindo for Secretary Carolyn Scruggs, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Jennifer Pollitt Hill, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Stacey Rice, Esq., The Law Offices of Stacey B. Rice, LLC
Laure Ruth, Esq.
Captain Brian Smith for Colonel Roland Butler, Jr., Maryland State Police

Guests:

Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Joyce King, Frederick County State's Attorney's Office
Victoria Reaves, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Leah Woody, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Marianne Camino, Caitlin Kearney

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:07 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Ms. Allyn welcomed three new Council members:

- Jason Dowding with CASA Inc. (Interest Member)

- Norwood Johnson, Survivor (Interest Member)
- Katie O'Malley, Executive Director, Women's Law Center of Maryland (Interest Member)

II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Updates

Ms. Allyn shared that the Office is holding a meeting on changes to victim services performance measures on 1/22/25 at 12 p.m. Ms. Allyn also shared that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is planned to be released by the end of January. Remaining state NOFAs will be released in February. The Office and the State Board of Victim Services will be hosting two events during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April.

- 35th Maryland Statewide Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families - Sunday, April 6
    - Charles, Frederick, Howard and Talbot counties
- 2025 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference - Wednesday, April 9

III. Approval of Minutes

The October 2024 Council meeting minutes were provided to members and guests. Lieutenant Governor Miller made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Dickerson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Workgroup Updates

a. *Abuse Intervention Program Certification*

Five programs were given conditional certifications pending submission of the new memorandum of understanding requirement by 11/29/24. All but one program submitted the MOU. The program has been in contact with GOCPP and the DV program and we are continuing to work with the programs to obtain the MOU. Members discussed that the Council should request feedback from programs on how the MOU process is going over time. Six site visits were conducted in November and December. The site visits brought up a concern with programs that bill insurance.

Seven programs are due for recertification in 2025 and the Council is expecting a few new programs to submit for certification.

b. *Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders*

Ms. Nitsch, Ms. Pollitt Hill and GOCPP staff met again with Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services staff about training to improve abuse intervention program data collection and lethality assessment program training. The Workgroup will continue to provide training resources to DPP.

c. *Access to Benefits for Immigrant Survivors*

Ms. Orloff shared that the Workgroup met to prioritize the recommendations and decided that healthcare expansion was an area where the Workgroup may be able to expand access through non-legislative avenues. Ms. Orloff shared that the Workgroup plans to create one pagers on what benefit changes could look like, identify state policies on

implementing U and T visa certification laws, and resend the survey to identify gaps in benefits and services to immigrant crime victims.

Lieutenant Governor Miller recommended inviting the Governor's Office on Immigrant Affairs to contribute to the workgroup's efforts.

d. *Stalking Prevention*
Ms. Feinstein shared that the appetite for felony stalking within the General Assembly appears to be low. The workgroup will continue to collect data.

Members discussed Amber's Law (House Bill 1163 from 2017) which allows victims to request electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology. Members were interested in how this has been implemented across the state.

e. *Survivor Advisory Workgroup*
Dr. Agbeyegbe updated members on the webinar that was held in October to inform stakeholders of the findings and recommendations from the ten survivor focus groups held earlier this year. 74 stakeholders participated in the webinar.



V. Legislation
Ms. King provided members with an overview of a bill that is being drafted for U nonimmigrant status petitions. The bill would make changes to align Maryland statute with federal regulations, and require certifiers to provide reasons for denial to a victim. The bill is not drafted, but once it

is it will be provided to the Council for consideration. Members also discussed House Bill 281: Admission of Out-of-Court Statements - Assault in the Second Degree, which the Council supported last year.

Ms. Allyn reminded members to send any legislation they would like the Council to consider supporting or opposing for review as soon as possible.

Ms. Erdice shared that the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault has published their legislative agenda. It can be found here.

VI. Old/New Business
None at this time.

VII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Google Meet: meet.google.com/yzj-ggoc-ids
Phone:1 585-969-5092
PIN: 880 672 911#