WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board

Wednesday, April 30 · 1:00 – 3:00pm
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/xhw-ohak-zrb

Board Attendees

- Judge Phil Caroom, Board Chair
- Bethany Young, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (designee)
- Commissioner Ernest Eley, Maryland Parole Commission
- Natasha Dartigue, Maryland Office of the Public Defender
- Chief Judge John Morrissey, District Court of Maryland
- Ruschelle Rubin, Department of Labor
- William Henry, The Law Offices of William H. Henry
- Tonii Gedin, Health Officer, Anne Arundel County Department of Health
- Rebecca Jones, Health Officer, Worcester County Health Department (appointment pending)
- Danielle Cox, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Minutes

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks - Judge Philip Caroom, Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board Chair

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

1. There are a number of vacant positions that Cahn is actively working to fill. Currently missing Senate Representative, Attorney General's Representative, Health Department Representative, and one of the Health Officers.

C. Approval of the Minutes

1. Minutes are approved by the board.

II. GOCPP Updates

A. PIGF Update - Brandi Cahn, Assistant Director of Justice Reinvestment, GOCPP

1. FY25 PIGF
   a) Total Awarded: approx. $13 million
   b) Q3 reports due on 4/30/25
   c) Will assess any modifications needed to make for subrecipients that are underspending.

d) FY25 grantees will have until May 31st to make any budget modifications to their current award.

2. FY26 PIGF
    a) 100 applications received; $24 million requested
        (1) Most since the inception of this program
    b) The appropriation for this year is $11.1 million, and $9.9 million are available for grants.
    c) $1 million is set aside to fund psychiatrists to support the implementation of Parole legislation passed in session and eliminate risk assessment backlog.
    d) The application scoring process is in progress.

III. Department Reports

A. Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service, Secretary Scruggs

1. No update.
2. Danielle Cox will follow up on the Secretary's report.

B. Maryland Department of Health

1. Cahn has contacted the new secretary about filling this vacancy.
2. Cahn will follow up in writing on 8-507 and 8-505 reports.

C. Local Detention Centers, Director Ross

1. No update.

D. Administrative Office of the Courts, Chief Judge Morrissey

1. The most recent report will be provided at the next meeting, as they are generated on a quarterly basis.
2. Behavioral Health Summit in May, hosted by Chief Justice Fader and Executive Director Dorothy Lennig (GOCPP). The event contains many notable speakers. The idea and goal of the summit is to come up with some type of diversion program for individuals with mental health issues.
3. Judge Caroom notes that there has been discussion of the July meeting containing a presentation from a problem solving court, specifically Anne Arundel County Drug Court. They are utilizing an experimental screening instrument that, among other things, does not automatically exclude those with violent offenses.
    a) Chief Judge Morrissey adds that the same issue is occurring with pretrial release statutes, where violent offenders are being excluded from pretrial release.
4. Cahn thanks Chief Judge Morrissey for co-hosting and providing opening remarks for GOCPP's annual Reentry Simulation last week.

IV. Legislative Update

A. Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation, GOCPP

1. Provides some legislative updates as it relates to the policy areas of concern to this Oversight Board.
2. PASSED
    a) HB 1123/SB 181 – Correctional Services – **Geriatric and Medical Parole**
        (1) Took the governor out of medical parole.
        (2) Added further definition and clarity for how the medical parole process will work.
        (3) Establishes procedures for reincarceration if medical parole eligibility is later reevaluated.
        (4) Establishes a process by which DPSCS will send the parole commission a list of names of people who are at least 65 years old and have been incarcerated for at least 20 years, with some exceptions. Those people are to get parole hearings. If they were sentenced to 40 or more years, they also get a risk assessment.
            (a) This is where the JRA funding will be used to help the parole commission expand their capacity to conduct the risk assessments.
    b) HB 853 - Postconviction Review – Procedure to Reduce Duration of Sentence (**Maryland Second Look Act**)
        (1) Expands eligibility under the Juvenile Restoration Act and implements measures to protect victims.
    c) SB 432 – Criminal Records – Expungement and Maryland Judiciary Case Search (**Expungement Reform Act of 2025**)
        (1) Defines start of wait period to request expungement and revises eligibility.
        (2) Bars case search from displaying certain cannabis-related charges, particularly those pardoned.
    d) HB 877 – Extending the **Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission**
        (1) Extended 2 years.
    e) HB 646/SB 811 – Extending the **Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services**
        (1) Extended 2 years.
    f) HB 415/SB 378 – Creating the **Family Literacy Pilot** for Incarcerated Parents
        (1) Provides books to incarcerated parents and opportunities for them to read aloud to their children.
    g) HB 775 – Notification of the Death of an Incarcerated Individual
        (1) Must include cause of death.

h) HB 634/SB 295 – Establishing the Income Tax Reconciliation Program (**Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involved Individuals Act**)
    (1) Establishes installment payment plans.
i) HB 22/SB 84 – Requiring DPSCS to Study **Individuals' Locations Before and After Incarceration**
    (1) To understand where the highest needs are.

3. DID NOT PASS
    a) HB 401/SB 056 – Requiring State to cover phone call costs for incarcerated individuals
        (1) Did not pass likely due to tough budget, same with HB 1084 Medication Assisted Treatment bill.
    b) Limiting Restrictive Housing in Adult (HB 647) and Juvenile Facilities (HB 827)
        (1) Youth housing piece in particular had a large fiscal note attached based on DJS estimates of what needed to be done to accommodate more youth in facilities.
    c) HB 837 – Establishing the Task Force to Study Forced Infant Separation From Incarcerated Individuals
    d) HB 710 – Restoring Voting Rights for People Incarcerated for a Felony
        (1) Would have expanded voting eligibility for incarcerated individuals and created a voter hotline.
    e) SB 632/HB 1198 – Altering Requirements for a Women's Prerelease Center ("The Monica Cooper Prelease Act")
        (1) Construction of prerelease center, likely not passed due to budget aspect as well.
    f) HB 289 – Requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to develop an Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Program
4. Young will share a document detailing these bills to the board later this week.

V. Restitution Update

A. Rebecca Allyn, Manager of Victim Services Initiatives, GOCPP

1. Restitution workgroup is housed under Maryland State Board of Victim Services
2. Expungement Reform Act of 2025 (SB432)
    a) In determining whether the person is entitled to expungement, the court shall consider whether the person has paid any monetary restitution ordered by the court or does not have the ability to pay restitution.
3. DPSCS is slated to implement an electronic payment portal for

restitution in May/June 2025. It will include a victim view, so the victim can log in and see the individual's progress toward paying restitution. No PII will be shared.

4. Allyn clarifies that the defendant can see all fines and fees associated with the account and their payment progress. They can split payment up by category.
5. If possible, Allyn will share video and maybe slides about the portal following receipt from DPSCS staff.
6. DJS is working toward a similar electronic payment system as well.
7. Next workgroup meeting is Tuesday, June 24th at 10:00 AM
8. William Henry adds that the workgroup also discussed how laws from different states may be helpful in shaping restitution in Maryland, such as financial disclosures by offenders, earnings withholding orders, etc.

VI. Open Discussion - Judge Caroom

A. Emerging Adults Program follow up

1. Danielle Cox noted ongoing work with community partners and programs like Vehicles for Change and Prison to Professionals.
    a) Suggests a presentation from Reentry at the next meeting.

B. Certificate of Rehabilitation follow up

1. Pushed to the next meeting.

VII. Next Steps - Judge Caroom and Brandi Cahn

A. July meeting

1. July 16th, 2025 at 1:00 PM

VIII. Good of the Order and Adjournment - Judge Caroom