Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland Byrne Advisory Board
Date: Monday, January 6th, 2025
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual

Advisory Board Goals and Objectives

- To develop recommendations that guide the implementation of Byrne SCIP funding, as established by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-159, 136 Stat. 1313, 1339).
- To provide oversight of the Landscape Analysis and curation of the Byrne SCIP Plan and Budget.
- To establish statewide performance measures to gauge sub-recipient progress in meeting Byrne SCIP goals.
- To review applications and recommend programs for funding based on best- and/or most promising practices to reduce gun violence in Maryland.

Participating Members:

Maryland Department of State Police	Assistance Bureau Chief, Criminal Investigation Bureau	Major Andy Johnson
ROAR Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore	Executive Director	Lydia Watts
Maryland Office of the Public Defender	Public Defender	Natasha Dartigue
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	Executive Director	Jeanne Yeager
Maryland Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Associations	Executive Director	Sheriff Darren Popkin (Ret.)
District Court of Maryland	Associate Judge	Honorable Marina Sabett
Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions	Assistant Scientist, Health Policy and Management	Spencer Cantrell

Staff:
James "Jim" Rhoden, Assistant Director, Centers of Excellence, GOCPP
Alexandra "Lexy" Smith, Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (BSCIP) Coordinator, GOCPP
Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation, GOCPP
Melissa Bitting, Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP) Coordinator, GOCPP

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Governor

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

Public:
Alexis Capestany

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Chair Representative, Jim Rhoden. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present. Members approved the meeting minutes from June 4, September 12, and November 7, 2024. The motions to accept were initiated by Jeanne Yeager and seconded by Spencer Cantrell.

II. Report from GOCPP

GOCPP staff reported progress on the FY25 BSCI Regional and Local ERPO Liaison Site Program Grant. Alexandra Smith and Jim Rhoden planned to travel to Frederick County the following day for a kickoff meeting, with Spencer Cantrell also in attendance. GOCPP confirmed that the three selected subrecipients – Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), Prince George's County Health Department, and Frederick County Health Department – had officially received funding following BJA approval.

III. Open Forum

The Board discussed the upcoming release of a new Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) focused on providing direct support to the three funded liaison sites. These sites are expected to function as pilot programs to establish a foundation for future ERPO implementation and broader system integration. While there was discussion about including jurisdictions that had not previously applied, the consensus was to concentrate on strengthening the existing grantees and building partnerships around them before expanding further.

Board members raised questions around the readiness of grantees to accept support partnerships due to their early-stage program development. GOCPP clarified that the NOFA had been delayed from a pre-holiday release but was not anticipated by mid-January. A 90-day application period will follow, providing adequate time for applicants to coordinate with Liaison sites.

Lydia Watts suggested establishing clearer communication strategies to ensure potential applicants understand how to support liaison sites and avoid overlapping with existing initiatives. GOCPP confirmed that outreach had already begun, and Spencer Cantrell volunteered to provide additional support to grantees navigating early implementation. Members emphasized the importance of fairness and transparency in disseminating the NOFA and encouraged GOCPP to leverage Board networks for distribution.

Jeanne Yeager raised a concern about how much information from the funded sites would be accessible to applicants, especially regarding program goals and objectives. GOCPP confirmed that contact information for liaison sites will be included in the NOFA and that applicants are required to include a letter of support or commitment from a liaison site, which will naturally facilitate information-sharing and collaboration. The Board agreed on the importance of flexibility and innovation in how to support partners contribute to liaison site efforts, emphasizing opportunities to fill gaps or complement existing services in creative ways.

Additional clarifications were provided regarding program designations: Baltimore City and Prince George's County are considered local sites, while Frederick County is a regional site serving a broader geographic area, including Washington County.

The Board then moved to approve the goals and objectives outlined in the NOFA with a quorum present. Board members also agreed to assist in sharing the NOFA through their networks upon final internal approval.

VII. Next Steps

The Advisory Board formally approved the goals and objectives for the upcoming NOFA during the meeting. GOCPP shared that a third NOFA, anticipated later this year, would focus on broader elements of Byrne SCIP funding beyond ERPO, including crisis response and court-based interventions. Timing for this opportunity remains uncertain and is contingent upon the distribution of funds from the second NOFA and available remaining balances. While all funding has been approved by Congress through 2027, state-level appropriate and BJA sign-off are still required before disbursement GOCPP committed to sharing details with the Board once the third NOFA is finalized.

VIII. Good of the Order and Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Lydia Watts and seconded by Honorable Marina Sabett. The meeting was officially adjourned at 2:33 PM.