Governor's Family Violence Council Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Co-Chair
Attorney General Anthony Brown, Co-Chair
Dr. Lillian Agbeyegbe, Survivor Advocate
Heather Amador for Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Jessica Dickerson for Acting Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino, Department of Juvenile Services
Debbie Feinstein, Esq., Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office
Lolita Gleaton for Secretary Rafael Lopez, Department of Human Services
Susan Inman for Secretary Carmel Martin, Governor's Office for Children
Norwood Johnson, Survivor
Pamela Love, DP Love Enterprises
John McGinnis for Superintendent Carey Wright, State Department of Education
Lisa Nitsch, House of Ruth Maryland
Zachary Norfolk, Esq., Office of the Attorney General
Molly O'Hara for Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Maryland General Assembly
Katie O'Malley, Women's Law Center of Maryland
Funsho Oparindo for Secretary Carolyn Scruggs, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Leslye Orloff, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
Jennifer Pollitt Hill, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Laure Ruth, Esq., Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Delegate Karen Simspon, Maryland General Assembly
Captain Brian Smith for Colonel Roland Butler, Maryland State Police
Jeanne Yeager, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

Guests:

Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Marieme Mbaye, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Nathaniel Jackson, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Brandon Uebel, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Caitlin Kearney, Heather Amador, Danielle Thomas

I. Welcome & Introductions

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

Ms. Allyn shared that several Council member terms ended on June 30, 2025. The Office will reach out regarding reappointments and replacements. A Senator vacancy remains.

II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Updates
Ms. Allyn shared that the Office has awarded most of the grants with a July 1, 2025 start date. Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) and Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) grants will be awarded soon.

New Criminal Injuries Compensation Board regulations went into effect on July 1, 2025. These changes expand eligibility criteria, remove application barriers, and increase award amounts for some reimbursement categories, including funeral costs, crime scene clean-up, and counseling. Agencies can request training on these updates, and the Office will overhaul its Criminal Injuries Compensation Board webpage to reflect these changes.

III. Approval of Minutes
The April 2025 Council meeting minutes were provided to members and guests. Ms. O'Malley 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*
   Ms. Allyn shared that eight programs were recommended for certification, including a new program, 360 Family Services in Prince George's County.

   Members discussed funding challenges for AIPs as alternatives to incarceration were not included as a priority for the Performance Incentive Grant funding this year. Programs face potential termination of services and may need to revert back to fee-based programs. Members discussed advocating to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board and exploring funding through public health channels or the Opioid Restitution Fund, if eligible. The Council will circulate a survey to assess AIP referral numbers, funding needs, and contributing factors to service reductions.

   Members discussed the AIP training requirements: two 30-hour training on working with perpetrators of intimate partner violence, and intimate partner violence and its effects on children. There has been pushback regarding availability of the required training, but the Council does not recommend utilizing fully self-paced training at this time.

b. *Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders*
   Ms. Allyn shared that 2,292 individuals currently have court ordered AIP as part of their supervision under the Department of Parole and Probation. The workgroup will continue to meet with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services on data collection and training for domestic violence cases.

c. *Access to Benefits for Immigrant Survivors*

The workgroup continues to focus on healthcare expansion through non-legislative avenues and recently met with a Maryland Department of Health Medicaid representative. Ms. Orloff shared that the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) received funding to provide training on immigrant survivor legal rights and confidentiality. Ms. Orloff will share the training dates with the Council.

d. Stalking Prevention
The workgroup will end this fiscal year, but the Council will continue to monitor stalking trends and data.

e. Survivor Advisory Council
The workgroup is developing a protective order one-pager and checklist/guidance for survivors, which will be distributed to the full Council for review.

V. FY26 Workgroups
The Council reviewed current workgroups. The Stalking Prevention Workgroup will be disbanded. Members proposed expanding current workgroup topics to include:

- Judicial training and visa certification for the Access to Benefits for Immigrant Survivors Workgroup
- Oversight of defendants on domestic violence charges for the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup
- Focusing on reforms to the Justice Reinvestment Act in regards to technical violations

VI. Old/New Business

- September 9 – The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) will host a human trafficking training in coordination with Bob's House of Hope, Texas.
- October 31 – House of Ruth Maryland will host a series of workshops focused on survivor experiences and improving service provider responses.
- Ms. Allyn informed members of the new Maryland Department of Health gun violence dashboard. Ms. Allyn will share the website link with Council members.
- Ms. Allyn shared that the Maryland State Board of Victim Services is developing a victim services directory and victim guide. The drafts of these resources will be shared with the Council for feedback.
- Lieutenant Governor Miller suggested exploring faith community representation on the Council, noting the important role faith-based organizations play in supporting victims.

VII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:26 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401