WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING
March 2, 2026
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES

Participating Members:
Mayor Lajan Cephas-Bey, Chair
Beyer Bullard
Tiana Davis
Derrell Frazier
Wanda Frink
Kya Hector
Lori James
Natalie Miller
Jessica Port
Amanada Rodriguez
Christopher Thompson

Staff:
Layomi Adegbenro
Aubrey Gerhardt
Jennifer Krabill

Guests:
Gineen Gray
Salimah Hussein
Ayman Nassar
Zain Nisar
April Sandi
Delegate Kym Taylor

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Cephas-Bey called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. A quorum was present as additional members joined the meeting during the initial conversation.

II. The Islamic Leadership Institute of America "I-Can-Lead for Juvenile Youth"

Presentation*

Mr. Nasar introduced the *I-Can-Lead* program, a trauma-informed, evidence-based reentry and leadership development initiative established in 2009. The program operates across multiple regions of Maryland, including the Western Shore, Eastern Shore, Central Maryland, and Baltimore City.

He provided an overview of the program's structure, which includes individualized coaching and wraparound services, four specialized tracks, a 23-unit curriculum, and a capstone project. Mr. Nasar also presented program outcomes, highlighting key successes as well as ongoing challenges and lessons learned. He concluded by sharing the program's future vision, including the development of the I-Can-Lead Competition, an opportunity designed to provide youth participants a forum to present their talents and growth.

Mr. Nasar closed by expressing his interest in maintaining open lines of communication moving forward. The presentation is attached hereto and will be a part thereof.

III. Approval of the Minutes*

Mayor Cephas-Bey noted that minutes from the January 5, 2026 meeting were sent to members prior to today's meeting for review. Mayor Cephas-Bey moved to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Amanda Rodriguez seconded. No objections were made and the January minutes were approved.

IV. Legislative Updates

Ms. Krabill reported positive progress on current legislative matters. The auto-charging bill (SB323) was recently voted on and has advanced out of committee into second reading. It was noted that significant amendments were made during the committee process and will be sent to members once they become available.

Ms. Krabill announced House Bill 1058, which proposes the creation of a Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund through GOCPP. Although the SAG did not submit testimony on this bill, if enacted, the SAG could play a key role in reviewing grant applications. The proposed fund would expand opportunities to support and finance additional community-based organizations focused on youth delinquency prevention programming.

V. FY27 NOFA Timeline*

Ms. Krabill announced that the JJAC/JSMR NOFA is out and ready for applications. Six continuation grants will be awarded. It was noted that the only additional purpose area included in this year's NOFA is compliance, reflecting a new requirement due to Maryland's noncompliance with the JJDPA.

Applications are due by March 31. Members were encouraged to reserve time during the last two weeks of April to complete grant reviews. Recommendations will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting, and, depending on the volume of applications received, an additional meeting may be scheduled to finalize decisions.

Ms. Krabill also provided a general overview of the grant review process and shared that a copy of last year's PowerPoint presentation will be reshared to offer further guidance. Each

application will receive a minimum of three independent reviews to ensure a thorough and balanced evaluation process.

VI. OJJDP Programmatic and Fiscal Monitoring

Ms. Krabill shared that OJJDP conducted extensive monitoring of funding streams within the Office, including the JJAC 2022, 2023 and 2024 awards. The monitoring included requests for documentation related to the SAG membership list, grantees, and compliance requirements.

The Office has not yet received a detailed follow-up letter outlining the results of the review. The SAG will be informed once additional guidance is received.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Emerging Leaders

Mr. Bullard shared that the ELC's most recent meeting demonstrated strong engagement, reflecting the success of their ongoing recruitment efforts. He also announced that the ELC is working to launch a newsletter aimed at elevating youth voices, particularly those who are justice-impacted. The newsletter will feature youth artwork, poetry, and other creative expressions.

Mr. Bullard expressed appreciation to Ms. Gerhardt for connecting the ELC with a facility whose youth expressed interest in submitting artwork for publication.

Ms. Krabill asked what support the ELC may need from the SAG. Mr. Bullard responded that, following the ELC's next meeting, they plan to request assistance in identifying youth who may be interested in contributing and in helping disseminate the newsletter opportunity within members' respective communities.

B. Grantee Updates - Site Visits

Ms. Krabill announced that site visits of current subgrantees are resuming, beginning with Unburdened Heart this week. Additional site visits are currently being scheduled and details will be circulated to allow for SAG member participation. Plans will be made to conduct a site visit for Justice Jobs at Victor Cullen as well as the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County.

Delegate Taylor requested that some site visits be scheduled for after April due to the legislative session. Ms. Krabill confirmed that she will intentionally plan several visits following April to accommodate members' availability.

Additionally, Ms. Gerhardt shared that she will release her site visit schedule for dates after April once dates are finalized with the facilities.

VIII. Roundtable

A. CJJ Conference

Ms. Krabill announced that the CJJ Conference will take place May 27–30, 2026. Members interested in attending are encouraged to email office staff. Those who have not previously attended, as well as youth members, are encouraged to consider attending and will be given preference for funding.

B. SAG Updates

Ms. Krabill welcomed Ms. Frink, who was appointed in early November, and expressed gratitude for the continued partnership with DJS.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on May 4, 2026 **at 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**