

Maryland State Board of Victim Services Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032
Wednesday, July 23, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Heather Amador for Executive Director Dorothy Lennig, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Anne Bean, Cecil County Department of Community Services
Tiffany Bright for Attorney General Anthony Brown, Office of the Attorney General
Gina Cirincion, Esq., State's Attorney for Washington County
Dawn Collins, Survivor Advocate
Anne Colt Leitess, Esq., State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County
Jessica Dickerson for Acting Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino, Department of Juvenile Services
Lou Gieszl, Administrative Office of the Courts
Sheriff Gary Hofmann, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office
Jonah Hornum, Survivor
Deputy Chief Laura Lanham, Hyattsville Police Department
Dr. Mildred Muhammad, Survivor and Certified Domestic Violence Advocate
Jill Ritter, Washington County State's Attorney's Office
Alonzo Robertson, Esq., Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center
Lisa Spicknall, Donate Life Maryland
Patricia Stevens, for Secretary Carolyn Scruggs, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Peaches Wilson, Montgomery County Trauma Services

Guests:

Jessica Cohen, Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Laurie Kimbles, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Caitlin Kearney, Terri Ricks, Danielle Thomas, Erika Wilson Wells

I. Introductions and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

The April 2025 Board meeting minutes were provided to members and guests. Ms. Bean made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Ritter seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

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

Ms. Allyn shared that the Office has awarded all victim services grants with a July 1, 2025 start date. The Office will post notices of funding availability for grants that start October 1, 2025 soon.

IV. Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) Updates

Ms. Cohen provided Board members with an overview of recent CICB legislative changes that went into effect 7/1/2025. Key highlights included:

- Updated victim definitions
- Removal of felony requirement for psychological injury
- Changes to eligibility and reimbursement criteria
- Template development for qualified third-party verification
- Emergency relocation
- Revised deadlines and award amounts
- Board composition and claims review process adjustments

Ms. Cohen noted ongoing improvements to simplify the application process and eliminate technical denials.

V. MSBVS Initiatives

- **Crime Victims' Rights Week**
The hosts for the *2026 Maryland Statewide Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families* will be the Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Washington, and Queen Anne's County State's Attorneys' Offices.
- **Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference**
Members discussed potential topics for the 2026 conference. Ms. Allyn asked members if they had any suggested locations for the conference to email those to her.
- **Grant Program Updates**
Ms. Allyn shared that the Office received 5 applications for the Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) grant program, which utilizes money obtained from unclaimed restitution to provide statewide legal counsel to victims of crime and delinquent acts to protect victims' rights. The total amount of funding requested was \$200,000, with only \$40,000 available to award. One applicant was chosen to receive the LSCV award based on scoring and eligibility.

Ms. Allyn shared that the Office received 33 applications for the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) grant program, which ensures implementation of victims' rights, advocacy and support services to victims of crime. The total amount of funding requested was \$1,319,474, with only \$450,000 available to award. 12 programs were recommended for funding based on scoring.

- **Restitution Workgroup**

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is working on implementing an electronic payment portal for restitution. The Department of Juvenile Services is in early discussions for an electronic payment portal. The next workgroup meeting is on Tuesday, August 26 at 10:00 a.m.

- **Victim Response to Mass Violence Subcommittee**

The Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup is planning to update the [guidance document](#) that was published in 2022. Ms. Allyn will share the draft guidance with the Board for feedback.

- **Crime Victim Notification Request Form**

Ms. Allyn shared that a statewide meeting will be scheduled for September to bring together the stakeholders to address issues with the form process.

- **Service Provider Directory and Victim's Guide**

Ms. Allyn will reshare the draft Victim's Guide to the Maryland Criminal Justice Process and Service Provider Directory for feedback. After the Board provides feedback, feedback will be solicited from the wider victim services community.

VI. Old/New Business

- National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project is offering a training "*Prosecuting Domestic Violence, Stalking, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking Cases Involving Immigrant Victims*" on Tuesday, August 5. Register [here](#).
- Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence is hosting a law enforcement training "*Beyond the Call: Innovating Domestic Violence Response*" on Friday, September 26. The training will be in-person at Chesapeake Community College. Register [here](#).
- MCASA is hosting a training "*Human Trafficking: Overlooked Populations*" on September 9 via Zoom. Register [here](#).
- MCASA is hosting their Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Fundamentals Training series from September 8 to September 19 via Zoom. Register [here](#).
- The [Maryland Department of Health Firearm Data Dashboard](#) was recently published.

VII. Adjournment

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

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 22, 2025
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.