



Governor's Family Violence Council Annual Report Executive Order 01.01.2012.05

Larry Hogan
Governor

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Executive Summary

Governor Larry Hogan and his Administration are committed to preventing and reducing domestic violence, and have advocated strongly for victims of family violence by supporting the work of the Governor's Family Violence Council. The Family Violence Council (Council), chaired by Jeanne Yeager, Executive Director of the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, and staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, has accomplished a broad range of projects to improve accountability, awareness, and research in statewide family violence policy over the past year.

I. Governor's Family Violence Council Structure and Goals

The mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council is to provide the Governor with timely and accurate information on family violence with recommendations that will reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

The Governor's Family Violence Council was established by the Lt. Governor and the Attorney General in 1995. The Council and its action teams represented all areas of the criminal justice system, as well as elected officials, advocates, scholars, and citizens. The first task of the Council was to understand the major problems facing the State's response to family violence. Subsequently, the Council evaluated criminal and civil laws concerning family violence. Using a model developed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges as a guide, the Council recommended reforms to strengthen state laws, enforcement of the laws, and programs that support families and protect victims. The Council's Executive Order (01.01.2012.05) established the following goals to further the Governor's efforts to reduce and prevent family violence:

- (1) Advise the Governor through the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention on matters related to family violence.
- (2) Identify and analyze State policies and programs relating to family violence, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Collecting data from State agencies relating to the prevention and reduction of domestic violence and related family violence;
 - (b) Identifying resources available to reduce and prevent family violence through a statewide coordinated effort.
 - (c) Identifying opportunities for collaboration between governmental units.

(3) Examine, or cause to be examined, the relationship between family violence and other societal problems, including but not limited to juvenile delinquency, alcohol and substance abuse, truancy, and future criminal activity.

(4) Identify best practices, research, and information pertaining to abuser intervention and related programs.

(5) Propose to the Governor, through the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to reduce and prevent the incidence of domestic violence and related family violence, to protect victims and to punish perpetrators.

A. Organization

The Family Violence Council applies a framework wherein Council members identify two or three key areas of family violence policy, selected by a majority vote, and championed by one member and a working committee of members for one year. At the culmination of the study, each working group delivers research and recommendations for the Office's consideration.

B. Fiscal Year 2017 Areas of Study

Workgroup #1: Gun Removal Implementation

Problem Statement

The mission of the Gun Removal Implementation Workgroup was to review the current gun removal statutes to make procedural and/or legislative recommendations to address a formal way to inform the defendant of the law, time frames and procedures for surrendering firearms or any mechanism for follow up.

Workgroup Structure

Members of the workgroup reviewed Public Safety Article, §§ 5-133 and 5-101, the relevant statutes restricting possession of regulated firearms and providing definitions, respectively. Members noted ambiguity in the statute regarding second degree assault for a domestically related crime and the list of disqualifying crimes. Public Safety Article, § 5-101(b-1)(1) stated that a probation before judgment for a domestically related crime was a conviction of a disqualifying crime for purposes of firearm possession laws. Paragraph (2) of this subsection, however, stated that a probation before judgment for second degree assault was not considered a conviction of a disqualifying crime.

House Bill 294/Senate Bill 224 (Chapters 804 and 805 of 2017) provide that if a defendant received probation before judgment for second degree assault determined to be a domestically related crime, the individual is disqualified from possessing a firearm.

Members of the workgroup also reviewed the *Defendant Trial Summary* form that is given to defendants by the court, which states that the defendant cannot possess or purchase a firearm. The workgroup agreed that overall, there is no uniform notification from the courts statewide to inform a defendant that they cannot possess or purchase a firearm. To remedy this, the workgroup drafted suggestions to the Defendant's Trial Summary Form, which were ultimately accepted and implemented by the Judiciary.

The changes to the *Defendant Trial Summary* form were to print the federal firearms warning in larger type, move the firearms warnings above the signature line so the defendant's signature will indicate the defendant agrees or understands the warnings, and add the following language: "If you have been convicted of or received probation before judgment for a crime, it may be unlawful for you to possess or purchase a firearm, including a rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or ammunition, pursuant to state and/or federal law. If you have any questions about whether it is now illegal for you to possess or purchase a firearm, you should immediately consult an attorney. For additional information about these prohibitions or the surrender of firearms (even if you are currently incarcerated), please consult the Office of the Attorney General's website, http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/forms/Form_77R_gun_questions.pdf, or contact the Maryland State Police Licensing Division at 410-653-4500."

Workgroup #2: Healthy Teen Dating

Problem Statement

The Healthy Teen Dating Workgroup is focusing on ways to bring healthy teen dating education to all counties in the State of Maryland. The workgroup is studying best practices and approaches throughout the State (and country) and evaluating whether a statewide approach would increase awareness and education on this issue. The workgroup is also looking at ways to increase the role of the public and private middle and high schools in this prevention effort. The workgroup is looking to make practical recommendations that can succeed across the State.

Workgroup Structure

The workgroup has examined what is currently happening statewide in public schools regarding domestic violence awareness and healthy teen dating. To inform their work, the workgroup invited teen dating violence prevention programs to present about their programs to members. Programs that presented to the workgroup were:

- The Dating Matters Initiative - This initiative began in 2011 by evaluating and implementing evidence-based practices to prevent teen dating violence. There are six curricula total, three each for students and parents. The curricula include topics on bullying and youth violence. Each curriculum includes 10 sessions.
- It's Not Love - This program is implemented by the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse and includes workshops for 9th - 12th grade youth. The workshops involve participants assuming the role of a character that is in an abusive dating relationship or is a witness to one. As the character, the participant makes the tough choices that one faces in these situations. The goal of this workshop is to create a safe and open environment to discuss where relationships fall on a healthy-to-abusive spectrum.
- #healthyfriendships - This is a workshop implemented by the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse for 6th - 8th grade youth which demonstrates friendships and what it means to be a good friend in middle school. The workshop helps with developing positive interpersonal skills with peers in early adolescence which can foster healthy relationships later in life.
- One Love Foundation - This foundation was created in 2010 after the death of a college student, Yeardley Love, who was a victim of dating violence. The intent of the Foundation is to educate youth on domestic violence and raise awareness. The Foundation offers the Escalation Workshop. This is a film-based workshop that educates people on the warning signs of relationship abuse. After viewing the film, workshop participants engage in a discussion about the film, discussing the early warning signs of relationship abuse and what they can do if they witness or experience these warning signs. The workshop is easy to implement in classrooms, clubs, sports teams and assemblies.
- Shifting Boundaries - This is an evidence-based intervention program designed to reduce dating violence and sexual harassment among middle school youth by highlighting the consequences of this behavior for perpetrators and increasing faculty surveillance of unsafe areas in schools. The intervention consists of two parts; a classroom-based curricula and school-wide component conducted within six to nine weeks.

The workgroup created a survey to gather information regarding healthy teen dating education in public schools. The survey was sent to the health supervisors for all Maryland jurisdictions. The survey gathered 25 responses from 19 counties. Some of the survey findings include:

- Some jurisdictions lack a healthy teen dating curriculum.
- Time and funding are barriers to implementing curricula in schools.
- The majority of counties believe teen dating/healthy relationship education should be available to students in all public schools across the state.
- Some counties are using evidence-based programs to educate the youth on teen dating and healthy relationships.

C. Fiscal Year 2018 Areas of Study

Council members discussed topics for the upcoming year at the July 2017 Council meeting. After a Council vote, strategic planning and extending the healthy teen dating topics were chosen.

Strategic Planning

The purpose of this workgroup is to develop an outcome-based strategic plan for family violence victims in Maryland. The Council developed three goals for victims: victims are safe, victims are self-sufficient, and victims and the community are aware. From these goals, outcomes will be developed for disciplines that work with victims and specific victim populations. The Council's strategic plan will ensure grant funds are being used effectively for victim services.

Healthy Teen Dating

The purpose of this workgroup is to identify best practices and develop a statewide approach to awareness and prevention on healthy teen dating in partnership with the public school systems. The workgroup was extended from Fiscal Year 2017 in order to develop a resource guide containing information on victim services and evidence-based programs that would be available to health educators in Maryland.

D. Program Updates

Abuse Intervention Program

The Governor's Family Violence Council is the certifying body for Abuse Intervention Programs in Maryland. The certification process is intended to certify Abuse Intervention Programs for inclusion in the Administrative Office of the Courts Bench Book for Maryland Judges to refer abusers to appropriate intervention programs. In May 2017, the Council received 18 applications for Abuse Intervention Program Certification. The applications were reviewed through a peer review process in June 2017 and all but one of the programs were certified or recertified. There are currently 29 certified Abuse Intervention Programs in Maryland.

Two abuse intervention programs were audited this year due to complaints filed with the Family Violence Council. The Office conducted site visits and issued final reports to the complainants. The programs in question were found to be in compliance with the operational guidelines for abuse intervention programs.

II. Looking Ahead: Goals for 2017-2018

In FY 2018, the Council will pursue the following goals:

- Deliver and accept workgroup recommendations for strategic planning for victims of family violence.
- Deliver and accept workgroup recommendations for Healthy Teen Dating.
- Complete certification and review of Abuse Intervention Programs that are due for recertification and/or requesting certification for the first time.
- Conduct audits of Abuse Intervention Programs to ensure compliance with the operational guidelines.
- Build capacity of Maryland domestic violence organizations by assisting with information and awareness sharing.
- Advise the Governor, through the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, on working group topics and recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year.

APPENDIX A: Family Violence Council Membership

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lieutenant Governor

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr., Executive Director, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Jeanne Yeager, Chair, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

Sam Abed, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Lillian Agbeyegbe, Survivor Advocate

Kelly Burrell, Esq., Office of the Attorney General

Michaele Cohen, Domestic Violence Expert

Debbie Feinstein, Chief, Family Violence Division, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office

Brian E. Frosh, Maryland Attorney General

Arlene Lee, Executive Director, Governor's Office for Children

Senator Susan Lee, Maryland General Assembly

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq., House of Ruth Maryland

Stephen Moyer, Secretary, Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services

Lisa Nitsch, MSW, Abuse Intervention & Training Institute Manager, House of Ruth Maryland

Kathleen O'Brien, Ph.D., Executive Director, Walden/Sierra, Inc.

Lourdes Padilla, Secretary, Maryland Department of Human Services

Colonel William M. Pallozzi, Superintendent, Maryland State Police

Scott Patterson, State's Attorney, Talbot County State's Attorney's Office

Manuel Ruiz, Synergy Family Services

Karen B. Salmon, Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education

Dennis Schrader, Secretary, Department of Health

Philip A. Selden, Assistant United States Attorney, United State's Attorney's Office

David Shultie, Domestic Violence Law Manager, Administrative Office of the Courts

Senator Bryan Simonaire, Maryland General Assembly

Neshanna Turner, Survivor

Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Maryland General Assembly

Reverend Anne Orwig Weatherholt, Rector, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

The Honorable Brett Wilson, Judge, Circuit Court of Washington County

Family Violence Council Alternate Representatives

Captain Holly Barrett, Maryland State Police

Kara Contino, Maryland General Assembly

Jessica Dickerson, Department of Juvenile Services

Ellen Grunden, Office of State's Attorney, Talbot County

Deena Hausner, House of Ruth Maryland

Lisae C. Jordan, Esq., Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Michael Lore, Maryland General Assembly

Jordan Lyszczek, Maryland General Assembly

Christina Miles, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office

John McGinnis, Maryland State Department of Education

Vernice Renee McKee, Maryland Department of Human Services

Mark Newgent, Office of Lieutenant Governor

Candy Edwards Roach, Governor's Office for Children

Carrie Williams, Esq., Office of the Attorney General

David Wolinski, Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services

S. Lee Woods, Maryland Department of Health

APPENDIX B: 2017 Certified Abuse Intervention Programs

Abused Persons Program, New Beginnings Abuser Intervention Program
Adelante Familia, Si Puedo Abuser Intervention Program
Alcohol & Drug Intervention (ADI)
Calvert County Health Department, Crisis Intervention Center Abuser Intervention Program
CASA, Positive Choices Abuser Intervention Program
Catoctin Counseling Center
Center for Abused Persons
Dove Center (DVSARC), Abuser Intervention Program
Family and Children's Services, Abuser Intervention Program
Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, New Behaviors Group Program
Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Inc., Abuser Intervention Program
Family Crisis Resource Center, Abuser Intervention Program
HARBEL Community Organization, Inc.
Heartly House, Abuse Intervention Program
HopeWorks of Howard County, New Behaviors Program
House of Ruth Maryland, Gateway Project
Life Crisis Center, Inc., Domestic Abuser Intervention
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, Abuser Intervention Program
My Covenant Place, Alpha Project
North Carroll Counseling Center, Abuser Intervention Program
Project Chesapeake
Relational Excellence, Engaging Men's Program
A Renewed Mind Behavioral Health Center, Abuser Intervention Program
SARC, Inc. (Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center), Abuser Intervention Program
Synergy Family Services, Inc.
The Engaging Men's Program
TurnAround, Abuser Intervention Program
Walden Sierra, Crisis and Trauma Program
YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County