



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

**Governor's Family Violence Council 2020
Annual Report**

Executive Order 01.01.2012.05 F

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Contact: Anthony Baranauskas
410-697-9382 | Anthony.Baranauskas@Maryland.gov

December 1, 2020
MSAR #9421

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Acknowledgements	2
Roster of Members	3
Executive Order	5
Background	5
Governor’s Family Violence Council	7
FY 2020 Areas of Study	7
Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy	7
Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases	8
Abuse Intervention Program Certification	9
FY 2021 Areas of Study	9
Program Updates	9
Legislation	10
Looking Ahead: Goals for 2020 - 2021	10
Addressing the Coronavirus Pandemic	11
Appendix: Certified Abuse Intervention Programs	12

Acknowledgements

This *Governor's Family Violence Council 2020 Annual Report* is the result of hard work, valuable input, and dedication from numerous stakeholders. Government officials, law enforcement, legislators, community advocates, victims' rights representatives, state and local government representatives, and survivors. Everyone was generous with their time and supportive feedback. Their participation in the Governor's Family Violence Council, as well as their feedback, suggestions, and recommendations were invaluable for the final report. The completion, timeliness, and comprehensiveness of this report would not have been possible without their active participation and support.

Roster of Members

The Governor's Family Violence Council is composed of various members, and a Chair and a Vice-Chair appointed by Governor Hogan.

Governor Larry Hogan

Governor of Maryland

Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford

Lt. Governor of Maryland

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.

Executive Director, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Jeanne Yeager

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

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.

Vice-Chair, Director, House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

Sam Abed

Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Lillian Agbeyegbe, DrPH

Survivor Advocate

Debbie Feinstein, Esq.

Chief, Special Victims Division, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office

Brian E. Frosh

Maryland Attorney General

Trisha Gentle, Ed.D.

Interest Member

Robert L. Green

Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Superintendent, Maryland State Police

Senator Susan Lee

Maryland Senate

Robert L. Neall

Secretary, Maryland Department of Health

Lisa Nitsch, MSW

Director of Training and Education, House of Ruth Maryland

Kathleen O'Brien, Ph.D.

CEO, Walden

Lourdes Padilla

Secretary, Maryland Department of Human Services

Scott Patterson, Esq.

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

Stacey Rice, Esq.

Rice Law

Laure Ruth, Esq.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland

Manuel Ruiz

Synergy Family Services

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

Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Maryland House of Delegates

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

Neshanna Turner
Survivor

Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Maryland House of Delegates

Senator Christopher West
Maryland Senate

Anne Orwig Weatherholt
Retired, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family Violence Council Alternate
Representatives

Linda Alexander, MD
Maryland Department of Health

Barbara Darley
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,
Youth, and Victim Services

Molli Cole
Maryland General Assembly

Jessica Dickerson
Department of Juvenile Services

Ellen Grunden
Office of State's Attorney, Talbot County

Deena Hausner
House of Ruth Maryland

Lieutenant Diane Hansen
Maryland State Police

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

Michael Lore
Maryland General Assembly

Christina Miles
Montgomery County State's Attorney's
Office

John McGinnis
Maryland State Department of Education

Marcia Morris
Maryland Department of Human Services

Mark Newgent
Office of Lieutenant Governor

Toni St. John
The Women's Law Center of Maryland

Carrie Williams, Esq.
Office of the Attorney General

David Wolinski
Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services

Executive Order

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2012.05, the Governor's Family Violence Council is charged to provide the Governor with timely and accurate information on family violence with recommendations to reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors. Through its charge, and under the leadership of Chairwoman Jeanne Yeager, Executive Director of the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, Vice-Chairwoman Dorothy Lennig, Director, House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, and staff from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, the Governor's Family Violence Council accomplished a variety of projects to improve accountability, awareness, and research in statewide family violence policy over the past year.

To address its charge, the Governor's Family Violence Council utilizes a framework in which members identify two or three key areas of family violence policy, selected by a majority vote, and championed by one member to be addressed by a workgroup of members over the duration of one year. At the conclusion of each year, the identified workgroup(s) presents its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services for consideration.

In 2020, under the leadership of the Governor's Family Violence Council, three workgroups collaborated with its partners to address the following key areas of family violence:

- The [Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy Workgroup](#) identified several programmatic and training needs related to pregnant victims of intimate partner violence.
- The [Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases Workgroup](#) identified, from a random sample, that a high percentage of reportable events and domestically-related crimes do not have associating fingerprints.
- The [Abuse Intervention Program Certification Workgroup](#) started to develop guidance for abuse intervention programs on the requirement of letters of support and working relationships with local domestic violence programs.

To build upon these efforts, the Governor's Family Violence Council will continue to pursue these workgroups in FY 2021.

Background

In 1995, the Lieutenant Governor and the Attorney General established the Family Violence Council to bring together leaders from various systems to produce recommendations and an action plan to reduce family violence in Maryland.

In 1998, Executive Order 01.01.1998.25 formed the Family Violence Council to improve coordinated responses to family violence issues in Maryland, to prevent and reduce family violence in Maryland, and to break the cycle of violence between generations.¹ Pursuant to its charge, the Family Violence Council consisted of representatives from criminal justice systems and the community to work in conjunction with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and other state organizations to develop and promote workplace policies and training for state employees. Furthermore, it required the Family Violence Council to take effect on October 1, 1998.

In 2006, Executive Order 01.01.2006.01 established the Governor's Council on Family Violence Prevention within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office),² formerly the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.³ Through its order, it required the Governor's Council on Family Violence Prevention to advise the Governor on matters related to family violence and to make recommendations based on analytical findings, best practices, research, and other gathered information related to its topic.

In 2008, Executive Order 01.01.2008.16 rescinded Executive Order 01.01.2006.01, and established the Governor's Family Violence Council (Council) within the Office.⁴ Pursuant to its charge, it required the Council to provide the Governor with timely and accurate information on family violence with recommendations to reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

In 2012, Executive Order 01.01.2012.05 amended Executive Order 01.01.2008.16, to add additional members to serve on the Council to address issues related to domestic violence.⁵ It also required the Council to remain within the Office and to continue its mission to provide the Governor with timely and accurate information on family violence with recommendations to

¹ The State of Maryland, Executive Department. (1998). [*Executive Order 01.01.1998.25, Domestic Violence and the Workplace.*](#)

² The Just Call Me Charley Blog. [*Governor Ehrlich: Governor's Council on Family Violence Prevention \(Executive Order 01.01.2006.01\).*](#)

³ Maryland General Assembly. (2020). [*Chapter 11, Acts of 2020.*](#) In March 2020, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was renamed the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

⁴ The Department of Legislative Services, General Assembly of Maryland. (2008). [*Executive Orders 2008.*](#)

⁵ The Department of Legislative Services, General Assembly of Maryland. (2012). [*Executive Orders 2012.*](#)

reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors. Pursuant to its order, the Council is charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Advise the Governor through the Executive Director of the Office 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; and
 - 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 Office, 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.
6. Perform such other duties and functions as may be appropriate and necessary for the Council to address and implement the provisions of this Executive Order.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2012.02 F, the Council is also required to submit an annual report to the Governor by December 1 of each year to provide the status of family violence in Maryland and to recommend improvements to the State's activities to prevent family violence.

Governor's Family Violence Council

FY 2020 Areas of Study

In FY 2020, the Council continued to address issues related to domestic violence to provide the Governor with timely and accurate information on family violence, and to make recommendations to reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors. Pursuant to its charge, the Council collaborated with its partners to address key areas of family violence: intimate partner violence and pregnancy, fingerprinting in domestic violence cases, and abuse intervention program certification.

Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy

To address the issue of intimate partner violence and pregnancy, the Workgroup reviewed current services and programming in Maryland for pregnant victims of intimate partner violence. The group also identified several topics that they could address, to include the following:

- Pregnancy and domestic violence related homicides
- Training on immigrant populations
- Preventing unwanted/unplanned pregnancies
- Funding for training on intimate partner violence and pregnancy
- Family planning clinics

Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases

In 2012, the Maryland General Assembly amended the Criminal Procedure Article and created “domestically-related crimes” (DRC). The law states that at the time of a criminal sentencing, if the State proves that the defendant and the victim have a “domestically-related relationship,” the judge will be required to report that in the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). As the Council explored reasons why there were fewer DRCs than they expected, they discovered that in order for a case to show up in CJIS, the defendant had to have been fingerprinted. The group wondered if there were cases where the judge determined that the case was domestically-related but they were not being reported in CJIS because the defendant had never been fingerprinted.

Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) includes 25 reportable events. Criminal justice agencies, including the courts, are required to report CHRI to the CJIS Central Repository. The compilation of “reportable events” that are linked to an individual by means of fingerprints is called the “RAP” Sheet (Report of Arrest and Prosecution). The CJIS Central Repository is a fingerprint supported record system. For a list of reportable events, refer to § 10-215 of the Criminal Procedure Article.

Last year, the Workgroup requested data from the courts to determine the magnitude of the issue with defendants not being appropriately fingerprinted, and thus the domestically-related flag is not reported in the CJIS Central Repository. The Council requested 1,000 randomly selected, closed, adjudicated district court cases, that resulted in a guilty or probation before judgement verdict from FY 2017, that included: defendant’s name, defendant’s date of birth, defendant’s race, court case and/or tracking number, county, and the location of the district court. Refer to the [*Governor’s Family Violence Council 2019 Annual Report*](#) for more information on the original data request.

After an initial review of the data, the Workgroup decided to further analyze the domestically-related cases and reportable events. Forty-nine (49) of the 994 cases (4.9%)

resulted from a DRC. Thirty-five (35) of the domestically-related cases were reported, flagged as DRC, and included fingerprint cards. Fourteen (14) of the domestically-related cases were not flagged as DRC and did not include fingerprint cards. Seventy-one percent (71%) of the domestically-related cases were fingerprinted, whereas 29% were not.

The sample included 327 reportable events of which 264 (80.7%) were fingerprinted and 63 (19.3%) were not. Although only 4.9% (49) of the total sample were domestically-related cases, this represents a significant portion of the reportable events (15%).

It is important to note that fingerprints were not included for 19.3% of the reportable events and 29% of the domestically-related cases. This indicates that nearly one in five reportable events, and approximately one-third of domestically-related cases, did not include fingerprints; therefore, no fingerprints appeared in the CJIS Central Repository or the offender's RAP sheet.

CJIS staff continues to advocate for increased training and education of court personnel, judges, parole and probation, law enforcement, corrections, and state's attorneys regarding the importance of fingerprinting.

Recommendations

- Expand the analysis to look at a larger sample of reportable events and circuit court cases. This could further shed light on the prevalence of more serious offenses showing up on the offender's criminal history.
- Present the findings to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board or another entity with the hopes of expanding the scope beyond domestic violence.
- Continue efforts to educate judges, court personnel, law enforcement, state's attorneys, etc. CJIS is currently focusing on conducting education.
- Ensure state's attorneys request that domestically-related cases be flagged as such.

Abuse Intervention Program Certification

In FY 2020, the Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification Review Process Workgroup became the Abuse Intervention Program Certification Workgroup, focusing on the AIP certification process and supporting AIPs. The Workgroup amended the Operational Guidelines for Abuse Intervention Programs to require AIPS to have an absence policy, as it was unclear from applications of what a program's absence policy was.

The Workgroup recognized the need to provide guidance on the requirement of letters of support for program certification. The Workgroup agreed that the certification application should clarify the working relationship with the domestic violence provider and the AIP, and require a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the AIP and the domestic violence provider.

The Workgroup began to discuss efforts relating to the development of a guide to provide clarity on letters of support and/or MOUs between AIPs and domestic violence programs. The Workgroup will continue to develop guidance for MOUs and letters of support.

FY 2021 Areas of Study

In July 2020, and after a vote, members of the Council decided to continue its work on the three current workgroups.

Program Updates

The Council serves as the certifying body for all AIPs in Maryland. Specifically, the Council certifies AIPs for inclusion in the Administrative Office of the Courts' *Bench Book for Maryland Judges* to refer abusers to appropriate intervention programs.

In January 2020, the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy (SMCFA) approached the Council for AIP certification. SMCFA became the comprehensive domestic violence provider for St. Mary's County in 2019, and began providing abuse intervention programming. At the time, there were no certified programs in St. Mary's County so the Council allowed an off-cycle certification. SMCFA submitted an AIP certification application and was approved for certification.

In June 2020, the Council received five applications for AIP certification. Through a peer review process, the Council reviewed the applications which resulted in the certification or recertification of three AIPs (*see [Appendix](#) for a list of the certified AIPs*). Two programs did not receive certification. One program is no longer providing abuse intervention programming and is no longer certified (A Renewed Mind).

AIP certification is valid for three years from the date of issuance. Once certification has been issued, an audit may be conducted at any time during the three year certification period to ensure programs are compliant with the *[AIP Operational Guidelines for Abuse Intervention Programs](#)* in Maryland set forth by the Council. In FY 2020, eight programs received an audit of which all resulted in a compliant outcome.

Legislation

The Council provided letters of support for the following bills which were passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2020:

- *HB 248/SB 210 - Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape and Sexual Offenses*: This legislation changed the definition of "person eligible for relief" in a protective order to

include anyone who alleges s/he is a victim of a rape or sexual offense, clarifying that they are eligible to receive a protective order rather than a peace order.

- *HB 233/SB 212 - Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree*: This legislation defines strangulation as a felony offense. Strangulation is an indicator of high lethality, and research has shown that it is a precursor to homicide, especially for women.

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2020 - 2021

To continue these efforts, and with the support of the Hogan-Rutherford Administration, the Council identified several goals to pursue in FY 2021, to include the following:

- Deliver and accept workgroup recommendations on intimate partner violence and pregnancy.
- Continue to address the workgroup recommendations on fingerprinting in domestic violence cases.
- Complete certification and review of the AIPs that are due for recertification and/or requesting certification for the first time.
- Conduct audits of AIPs 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 Office, on workgroup topics and recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year.

Addressing the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, in consultation with the Governor's Family Violence Council and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services (the Board), supported victim service providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In the beginning of the pandemic, the Council and the Board met virtually to discuss the needs of victim service providers. These discussions guided priorities for coronavirus emergency funding the Office received.

Members identified the following issues due to the pandemic: communal living in shelters, utilizing hotels for shelter stays, developing leave policies for nonprofits, transferring hotlines to remote, programs obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE), needing confidential and secure platforms to provide services virtually, court closures, obtaining protective orders, and suspension of AIPs. Programs had to quickly adapt in order to continue 24/7 services while being completely virtual.

The Office created a section of the website to provide resources for victims of crime during the pandemic. The resources included a directory of programs providing services during the pandemic, hotlines, information about COVID-19, mental health services, supportive services, legal services, compensation, housing, pet resources, and state of Maryland resources. The website also provided guidance for victim service providers. The resources can be found at <http://goccp.maryland.gov/covid19-victim-resources/>.

The Office submitted a request for PPE to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency on behalf of victim service providers. In September 2020, the Office received N95 masks, gowns, face shields, gloves, disinfectant sanitizing wipes, and hand sanitizer to provide to more than 30 nonprofit and governmental victim service providers.

Appendix: Certified Abuse Intervention Programs

The following AIPs are certified in Maryland:

Abused Persons Program, New Beginnings Abuser Intervention Program
Alcohol & Drug Intervention (ADI)
Calvert County Health Department, Crisis Intervention Center, Abuser Intervention Program
Catoctin Counseling Center
Center for Abused Persons
Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused (CASA), Inc., Positive Choices Abuser Intervention Program
Community Crisis Services, Inc., Abuser Intervention Program
Dove Center, Abuser Intervention Program
Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, New Behaviors Group Program
Family Crisis Resource Center, Abuser Intervention Program
HARBEL Community Organization, Inc., Harbel Prevention and Recovery Center
Heartly House, Abuse Intervention Program
House of Ruth Maryland, Gateway Project
Life Crisis Center, Inc.
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, Abuser Intervention Program
My Covenant Place, Alpha Project
North Carroll Counseling Center, Abuser Intervention Program
Relational Excellence, Engaging Men's Program
Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC), Inc., Abuser Intervention Program
Si Puedo, Abuser Intervention Program
Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy
Springboard Community Services (formerly Family and Children's Services), Abuser Intervention Program
Synergy Family Services, Inc.
TurnAround, Abuser Intervention Program
YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County