



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

**Governor's Family Violence Council 2021
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: Cameron Edsall
410-697-9382 | Cameron.Edsall2@Maryland.gov

December 1, 2021
MSAR #9421

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Acknowledgements	2
Roster of Members	3
Executive Order	5
Background	6
Governor’s Family Violence Council	7
FY 2021 Areas of Study	7
Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy	8
Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases	8
Abuse Intervention Program Certification	8
FY 2022 Areas of Study	9
Program Updates	9
Legislation	10
Governor’s Family Violence Council Manual	10
Looking Ahead: Goals for 2021 - 2022	10
Appendix: Certified Abuse Intervention Programs	11

Acknowledgements

This *Governor's Family Violence Council 2021 Annual Report* is the result of hard work, valuable input, and dedication from numerous stakeholders, to include: 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

Mohammed Choudhury
Superintendent, Maryland State Department
of Education

Reverend Lawrence Crabtree
SAYSF Bible Church

Debbie Feinstein, Esq.
Chief, Special Victims Division,
Montgomery County State's Attorney's
Office

Brian E. Frosh
Maryland Attorney General

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

Pamela Love Manning, PhD
President, DP Love Enterprises

Lisa Nitsch, MSW
Director of Training and Education, House
of Ruth Maryland

Lourdes Padilla
Secretary, Maryland Department of Human
Services

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

Jennifer Pollit-Hill
Interim Executive Director, Maryland
Network Against Domestic Violence

Stacey Rice, Esq.
Rice Law

Laure Ruth, Esq.
The Women's Law Center of Maryland

Manuel Ruiz
Synergy Family Services

Dennis Schrader
Secretary, Maryland Department of Health

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

Family Violence Council Alternate
Representatives

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

Molli Cole
Maryland General Assembly

Jessica Dickerson
Department of Juvenile Services

Deena Hausner
House of Ruth Maryland

Lieutenant Diane Hansen
Maryland State Police

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

Sarah Lewis
Maryland Department of Health

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 2021, 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](#) conducted a social media campaign to increase awareness of intimate partner violence among pregnant women.
- The [Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases Workgroup](#) recommends continued education for judges, court personnel, law enforcement, and state's attorneys on the importance of fingerprinting.
- The [Abuse Intervention Program Certification Workgroup](#) identified the need for 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 the Abuse Intervention Program Certification Workgroup in FY 2022, and reinstate the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup.

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 2021 Areas of Study

In FY 2021, 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 goal of the workgroup is to increase awareness of the risks associated between intimate partner violence and pregnancy, and review best practices in the State. The workgroup provided updates and recommendations for intimate partner violence resources on the Maryland Department of Health's website.

The Office will conduct a social media campaign in October 2021, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month as well as Infant Loss and Pregnancy Awareness Month, to share events, resources, and information on domestic violence and the risks and prevalence among pregnant women.

Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases

The Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases Workgroup met with Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) staff to discuss increasing fingerprinting oversight. The workgroup was informed that probation agents are, and will continue to, monitor fingerprint status for supervised offenders.

The workgroup continues to emphasize that the issue goes beyond the scope of domestic violence and efforts to educate judges, court personnel, law enforcement, and state's attorneys should be continued.

Abuse Intervention Program Certification

The Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification 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 guidance to provide clarity on letters of support and/or MOUs between AIPs and domestic violence programs. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the workgroup agreed that this would not be required in 2021, however, the Council will make it a requirement for 2022 certification. The workgroup will continue to develop guidance for MOUs and letters of support.

One new addition was added to the AIP Operational Guidelines. AIPs are now required to notify the Council if AIP groups cannot be provided for any reason, or if there is a waitlist.

FY 2022 Areas of Study

In July 2021, and after a vote, members of the Council decided to continue its work on the current Abuser Intervention Program Certification Workgroup, and reinstate the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup.

In 2014, the Council created the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup to determine what happens to abusers when they fail to satisfy the condition(s) of a court order. The workgroup determined that they must first identify what the consequences are when an abuser fails to satisfy the terms of a court order. DPSCS staff assisted with collecting data for analysis, and the workgroup identified data fields to be added to the Offender Case Management System (OCMS) to capture information related to the outcomes of abusers that have conditions imposed as a result of a court order. The updates to the OCMS were made in August 2020. The reinstated workgroup will review OCMS data since August 2020, and identify any trends related to offenders who do not meet conditions of court orders.

The Abuse Intervention Certification Workgroup will develop guidance for abuse intervention programs relationship with the domestic violence provider and the requirement for an MOU between the AIP and the domestic violence provider.

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 June 2021, the Council received 15 applications for AIP certification, including 14 applications for recertification and one application for a new program. Through a peer review process, the Council reviewed the applications which resulted in the recertification of 13 AIPs (see [Appendix](#) for a list of the certified AIPs). Two programs did not receive certification.

North Carroll Counseling Abuser Intervention Program requested a hearing with the Council to discuss the denial of certification status. The program was denied certification for failure to submit required information for certification, and failure to meet certain guidelines as set forth by the Council. The hearing was held in September 2021, and the program had an opportunity to address the Council. It is the responsibility of the Council to monitor AIP compliance for survivor's safety and the denial decision was upheld. The program is able to reapply for certification in 2022 if they wish to do so.

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 2021, five 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 2021:

- [House Bill 514/Senate Bill 413](#) - *Maryland Legal Services Corporation Funding – Abandoned Property* – This bill increases the amount that the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) gets from the state’s abandoned property fund from \$2,000,000 to \$8,000,000. MLSC provides funding to low income legal service providers in Maryland, including several programs providing representation to survivors of domestic violence.
- [House Bill 18/Senate Bill 154](#) - *Landlord and Tenant – Residential Tenants – Access to Counsel* - This bill was amended to create an access to counsel for low income tenants under circumstances. It requires MLSC to help connect tenants with legal counsel in eviction cases. In addition, it requires landlords to provide notice to a tenant before filing for eviction and gives the tenant 10 days to pay the rent.

Governor’s Family Violence Council Manual

The Council developed a manual which outlines the duties, procedures, and responsibilities of the Council and its members. The manual was shared with all members and can be found [here](#).

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2021 - 2022

To continue these efforts, and with the support of the Hogan-Rutherford Administration, the Council identified several goals to pursue in FY 2022, to include the following:

- Deliver and accept workgroup recommendations on Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders.
- 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.

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, Calvert Center for Change, Abuser Intervention Program
Catoctin Counseling Center
Center for Abused Persons
Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused (CASA), Inc., Positive Choices 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
Relational Excellence, Engaging Men's Program
Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC), Inc., Abuser Intervention Program
Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy
Springboard Community Services, Abuser Intervention Program
Synergy Family Services, Inc.
TurnAround, Abuser Intervention Program
YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County