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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

Kristen Mahoney
Executive Director

September 9, 2007

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, we are pleased to respectfully submit this comprehensive report covering fiscal years 2003 through 2006. The Board, which is coordinated through the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, is required by State Government Article, Section 11-911 through 11-919 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to fulfill its legislative mandate by issuing this report.

This report includes recommendations for the improvement of crime victims' rights and services in Maryland, as well as information on the administration of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund. It also documents the increasing activities and initiatives the Board has undertaken during this period of time. This report is submitted, as mandated, to the Governor, the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

The future for Maryland criminal justice agencies to uphold victims' rights laws is promising. In order for the State of Maryland to truly support crime victims, criminal justice agencies must be educated and kept informed on existing and new laws. This will be accomplished through the first annual *Crime Victims Rights and Compliance Conference: Agency Responsibility It's the Law* Conference, to be held January 8th and 9th in Howard County. The Conference will bring together state and jurisdictional leaders from the criminal justice system. At the end of the Conference, each jurisdictional team will return to their community with a work plan that will provide law enforcement, prosecutors, detention centers and others involved in the criminal justice system, a systematic map to follow, thereby ensuring crime victims that they will be informed of their statutory rights at each stage of the criminal justice process.

We are very proud of the dedicated work of the State Board, its Coordinator, Compliance Coordinator, Program Assistant and the staff of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. We are honored to support you in our shared goals, and to see those efforts benefiting the needs of crime victims in our State. Maryland can be justly proud of its progress in improving the plight of crime victims.

Sincerely,

Kristen Mahoney
Executive Director

Roberta Roper
Chair, State Board of Victim Services

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD
OF
VICTIM SERVICES**

Annual Report FY2003 – FY2006

I. Overview

The Maryland State Board of Victim Services (Board) and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) continue their effort to improve the treatment of crime victims across the state while protecting, supporting and addressing their needs. Great strides have been made over the last four years. For example, in 2003, the Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland (RVAAM) was established at the University of Baltimore, creating an affordable, baseline educational foundation for victim service providers and extending out to all those who come in contact with crime victims.

Maryland continues to set forth laws to protect crime victims and witnesses, while ensuring that crime victims' rights are upheld in the court of law, thereby providing victims the constitutional right to be treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal and juvenile justice processes. In the last four years, the Board has successfully drafted State laws to incorporate procedures ensuring that victims' rights become a reality in the justice system. The Board has also worked diligently and patiently to improve crime victim related mandated brochures and forms; expand the Compliance Initiative to ensure victims rights are withheld in the criminal justice process; and enhance the Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Initiative for ensuring notification of victims regarding court hearings and offender custody status.

Additionally, the *Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form (CVNDRF)* has progressed over the last years still fulfilling the mandate by providing victims with information on the right to be notified of, attend, and be heard at all court proceedings with better instructions, more information and an additional attached form to be sent to the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) in the event a defendant is sentenced to DPP. The form is in the process of revision again, and will soon be available in Spanish as well as English. In 2005, the mandated State's Attorney's brochure *Your Rights in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process* was revised and distributed to all twenty-four (24) State's Attorneys' Offices for mailings to crime victims in conjunction with the with the *CVNDRF*.

Furthermore, during FY2003-FY2006, legislation expanded the definition of "crime", regarding restitution and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, by including all crimes, except non-jailable motor vehicle offenses. In addition, truth in sentencing was signed into law, fixing an error in the law so that offenders actually serve the sentence imposed by the Court. Legislation also was passed that improved Maryland's law to

prevent intimidation of victims and witnesses and to punish those who intimidate victims or witnesses. Other laws were passed that also strengthen victims' rights and services.

Overall, Maryland is a front-runner in innovations that serve crime victims. By expanding funding beyond mainstream victim service programs, the Board has creatively supported grassroots, nonprofit, community- and faith-based victim organizations and coalitions who are not linked to and who do not have access to traditional funding for services, outreach, and networking. Oftentimes, these organizations need only minimal financial support and access to resources to expand and enhance their outreach and services to crime victims.

II. State Board of Victim Services

In 1988, the Maryland General Assembly created the State Board of Victim Services and the position of the Victim Services Coordinator. These two entities were created for the purpose of monitoring, assessing, coordinating and making recommendations concerning state and local efforts to assist victims of crime. The Maryland General Assembly recognized the unique and distinctive needs of crime victims and created the State Board of Victim Services. The Board's purpose is to ensure that all crime victims in Maryland are treated with dignity, respect and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process. In 1991, under the authority of GOCCP, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund to provide funding support for victim services. The Maryland State Board of Victim Services administers the Fund.

During the past four fiscal years the State Board has developed and expanded a number of initiatives consistent with their mission. These initiatives include enhancing awareness of victim rights and services, certification for making the justice system more victim friendly and providing specific programmatic support to victim service programs. The following describes in more detail these initiatives.

III. State Board of Victim Services Meetings and Membership

The State Board of Victim Services' Board plans a meeting schedule one year in advance. Historically, Board meetings have been conducted on the first Wednesday of the month. In 2005, the Board changed the Board meetings from monthly to bi-monthly, with the exception of January through March during the General Assembly's Legislative Session. Members believed that by reducing the number of Board meetings annually, it would allow for more time to hold Committee meetings. The Board met forty-three (43) times during the period from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2006.

The State Board's Annual Retreats were held on July 28, 2004 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Technical Center in Catonsville, and on July 29, 2005 at the Historic Oakland Manor in Columbia. Annual retreats were not held in 2002 and 2003. This year, a retreat is planned for October 27, 2006 at the Aspen Wye River Marriott Conference Center in Queenstown. The retreat is an opportunity for Board

members to review their mission statements, set goals and establish a work plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, Criminal Procedure Article §11-912, the State Board of Victim Services - Membership as of September 1, 2006 is composed of the following members:

Roberta Roper	Chair
Barbara Bond	Office of the Attorney General
Stuart Brooks	Public Member
Walter T. Coryell	MD Association of Chiefs of Police
Charles F. Crossley, Jr.	State Sheriff's Association
Maria Crowe	Public Member (term ended 6/2006)
Jessica Dickerson	Department of Juvenile Justice
The Honorable Frank Kratovil	State's Attorney
Patricia Marshall	Service Provider
Kap Yung Park	Public Member
Margery Patten	Public Member
Sandy S. Roberts, Esquire	MD Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Adrienne Siegel*	Dept. of Human Resources (term ended 12/2005)
Debra Tall	Victim Service Provider
Deborah A. Unitus	State Judiciary
The Honorable Frank R. Weathersbee	State's Attorney
Alan C. Woods III, Esquire	Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Virginia Wolf	Public Member
Robin Woolford	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Roni Young, Esquire	Victim Service Provider

* Rakhsha Hakimzadeh replaced Adrienne Siegel.

Board Vacancies

At the time of the filing of this report, the State Board is currently operating with three (3) vacancies: two (2) Public Memberships and one (1) Service Provider membership. At this time, nominations are pending to the Governor's Appointment Office.

Board Appointments (as of 10/22/2007)

Linda Fleischer	Public Member
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill	Victim Service Provider
Jeanne Yeager	Victim Service Provider

The State Board of Victim Services Staff

Full-Time staff

Anne M. Litecky, State Victim Services Coordinator

Shirley Haas, Compliance Coordinator and Alisa Baum, Program Assistant

Part-Time staff

Carol Mackowiak, Fiscal Administrator and Donna Fleck, Administrative Assistant

Staff Job Descriptions

State Victim Services Coordinator

In October 2002, Denise McCain resigned as the Victim Services Program Coordinator. From that time until September 2003, Anne Litecky served as Acting Coordinator while continuing to serve as the Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator. Her position was made permanent in September 2003.

Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator

In June 2001, Anne Litecky was hired as the Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator, replacing Lynn Iannarelli who was the initial Compliance Coordinator hired in the Spring of 2000. During October 2002 through February 2004 Anne Litecky served as Acting Victim Services Coordinator while fulfilling the job responsibilities of the Compliance Coordinator. In September 2003, Shirley Haas was hired as the Compliance Coordinator and is still serving in this position to date.

Program Assistant

In March 2005, Alisa Baum was hired as the Program Assistant to monitor grants and assist the Victim Services Coordinator with events, such as the four State-Wide Regional Memorial Services and the Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon.

Administrative Assistant

Donna Fleck has been working full-time with GOCCP since 1990. In 1994, Donna was reassigned to work as the Administrative Assistant for the Board in addition to working with the STOP VAWA Program. Donna has remained in this position to date, and continues to support Board activities.

IV. State Board of Victim Services Initiatives

Enhance Awareness of Victim Rights and Services

Although a number of crime victim-related legislation was passed over the last four years, many victims of crime are still unaware of their rights. Below is a description of the steps the State has taken to increase awareness and victim participation in the justice process. The statutes, entitled Victims and Witnesses, are detailed in Maryland Annotated Code, Title 11, Criminal Procedure Article.

Technical Assistance and Information Sharing: The Victim Services Coordinator, a legislatively mandated staff position in GOCCP, will assist in making promising practices and strategies known to victim assistance personnel across the state through hands-on technical assistance for new and expanding programs.

Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Initiative: The Maryland State Board of Victim Services understands that crime victims would like to have the choice and control of knowing when a court hearing will be held and whether or not an offender has been released from custody. Since its inception in 2000, VINE has not only fulfilled this need for victims of crime in Maryland, but has worked diligently with GOCCP in recent years to expand and simplify it. VINE is an information service that provides victims of crime with dates of upcoming court hearings, as well as the custody status of offenders in local jails and state prisons.

VINE statistics		
FY Year	New Registrations	Phone & E-mail Notifications
7/2005- 6/2006	13,948	106,060
7/2004- 6/2005	10,526	109,715
7/2003- 6/2004	5,295	79,901
7/2002- 6/2003	3,524	52,232
Percent Change: FY 2003 v. 2006	296%	103%

This chart shows an increase in usage for registration and notification over the last four fiscal years.

VINE operates through a fully automated computer service that electronically links a national call center located in Louisville, Kentucky with each court, all detention centers and the state prison system. When new offender court case or custody status information is sent to the VINE Call Center, VINE compares the offender information to a list of individuals who have previously registered with the service. When it finds a match, it immediately places calls or emails to the appropriate registered victim or person. Updated offender records are automatically sent to the center as often as every 15 minutes and court records are received once a day. VINE's fully automated system is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003

- Upgrade VINE service/software to the new VINE platform
- 25% Increase in usage
- 30% Increase in new registrations

2004

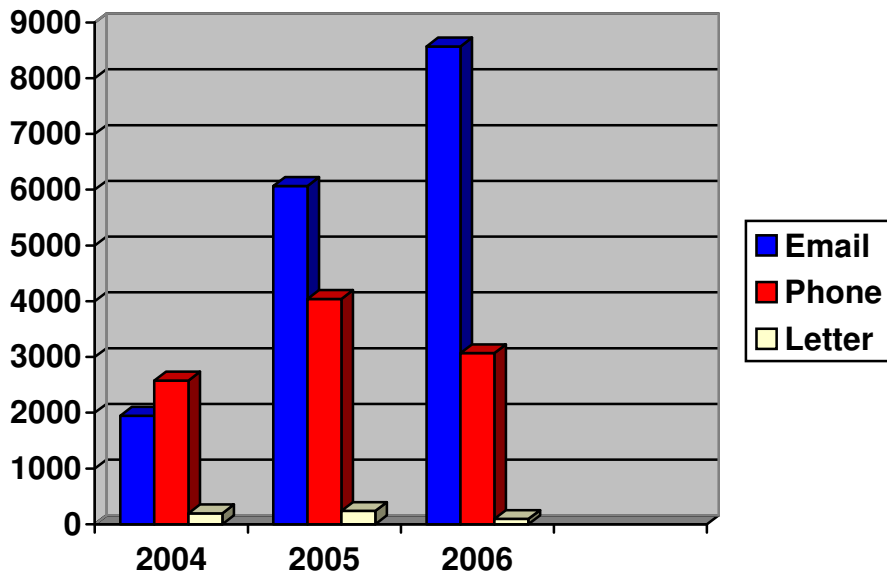
- 55 Statewide training sessions conducted since 2001
- 32 Statewide trainings held in the past year
- Benchmarks set the previous year calling for an increase in trainings (6), registrations (30%), notifications (25%) and calls (30%) attained

2005

- Baltimore City Detention Center successfully connected to VINE
- Statewide push to utilize Case Tracking Number (CTN)
- District Courts Online
- 24 Circuit Courts Online
- 24 Detention Centers Online
- 40 States now use VINE
- Sex Offender Alert Line via toll-free phone service and online

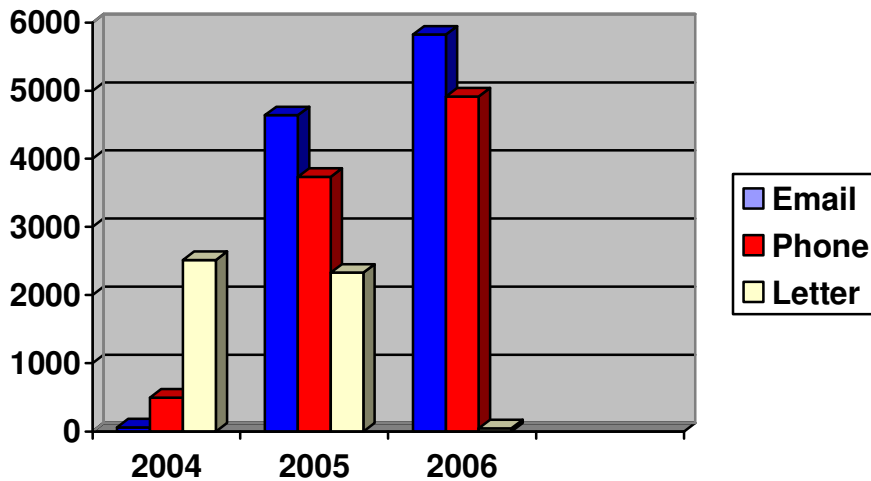
2006

- Appriss Contract with State renewed: 1 year base contract with four (4), one (1) year renewable options
- Vinewatch Report revisions for more accurate and user friendly reports
- Phone, e-mail and letter scripting enhancements



Custody Notification 2004 - 2006

This graph illustrates the dramatic increase in email notification from its inception in 2004.



Court Notification 2004 - 2006

This graph illustrates the increase in email, phone and letter notification.

In addition to crime victims, many government agents, law enforcement personnel and victim service providers benefit by registering with VINE for email notification when court-hearing dates are needed for a specific case or when relaying the information to a crime victim. The State Victim Coordinator works closely with the Appriss' Account Manager to monitor usage, troubleshoot, and prepare statewide training events.

In March 2005, the State of Maryland issued a Request For Proposal (RFP), a competitive bid for Automated Victim Notification Services. On October 19, 2005, Appriss, Inc.'s proposal was approved by the State of Maryland's, Board of Public Works and the execution of a contract with the Department of Budget and Management was issued. The State of Maryland secured a five-year annual renewable contract with Appriss, Inc, to continue VINE services.

V. Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative

As a result of legislation, all state, county and local justice agencies and courts in Maryland are required by law to perform certain duties to ensure victims' participation in and access to justice. However, many victims still find their rights are overlooked or ignored by the criminal justice system. The Maryland State Board of Victim Services and GOCCP, recognizing their unique ability to develop and implement a program designed at remedying victims' rights violations, established the Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative in April 1999. This Initiative was designed to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims of crime and to give them an option to voice their concerns should they feel that their statutory rights have been violated at any point in the criminal justice process.

Specifically, the goals of the Initiative are to establish a resource for victims of crime; treat all victims with respect, dignity and sensitivity; ensure understanding and resolution between victims and agencies; support victims by providing information, assistance, and referrals; and to promote awareness of Victims' Rights Laws within all criminal justice agencies in the State of Maryland. Victims of crime are provided with direct access to assistance through a toll free Compliance Line, which provides victims a unique opportunity to voice their concerns, especially if they feel their rights have been violated or if they have been mistreated by the criminal justice system. In addition, the Initiative created the Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator position (Compliance Coordinator) in order to assist the Board in monitoring compliance. The Compliance Coordinator is appointed by, and subject to, the authority of the Executive Director of GOCCP, similar to that of the Victim Services Coordinator.

The Compliance Coordinator acts to enhance and further support state efforts to protect and support victims of crime and monitor state victims' rights laws through a combination of duties that include: serving as an ombudsman for crime victims; conducting inquiries into alleged violations of the Victims' Rights Amendment and enabling statutes; responding to calls and complaints received on the Compliance Line; resolving complaints informally and making referrals where appropriate; preparing formal reports for review by the Board; and proposing recommendations for remedial sanctions against an agency that fails to effectively implement or comply with laws. The Compliance Coordinator also works to enhance public awareness of victims' rights and compliance through the development of outreach efforts and makes recommendations for a formalized system.

Victims' Rights and Services in Maryland

All Maryland State, county and local criminal and juvenile justice agencies and courts are charged with performing duties to facilitate victim participation in the criminal justice process. Victims' rights statutes specify the duties required of each entity. Only through the performance of mandated duties are victims able to exercise their lawful rights.

Crime victims have numerous rights, beginning at the time a crime is reported and continuing through the justice process. One fundamental right guaranteed to all crime victims is the right to be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect by agents of the State during all phases of the criminal justice process. Other guarantees to victims include the right to be informed of their rights; to be notified of court proceedings; to attend court proceedings and to address the court prior to sentencing; to be made whole financially by requesting restitution from the defendant; to have their safety considered through notification of releases, escapes and certain inmate transfers; to receive protection from harm; to request issuances of peace or protection orders; and to speak at certain release hearings. For example case profiles see *Appendix A*.

Victims' Rights Compliance on Site Performance Surveys

While GOCCP and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services are responsible for monitoring compliance with crime victims' rights, the extent to which agencies are compliant has been relatively unknown. As a result, performance surveys, coupled with site visits, are being conducted statewide in order to better understand each agency's systems and approaches to delivering victims' rights in order to promote system improvement. These processes facilitate the efficient gathering of information regarding an agency's self-assessment, policies, procedures, comprehension and compliance with their statutory responsibilities to crime victims. During FY 2006 surveys were primarily focused on the western and southern portions of central Maryland and included state's attorney's offices, clerk of circuit and juvenile court, county correctional facilities, sheriff's offices, some municipal police departments and the Division of Parole and Probation and the Department of Juvenile Services. Previously, in 2002 through 2004, site visits were performed across the state in each jurisdiction to include law enforcement agencies, state's attorneys' offices, clerk of the courts and detention centers. In 2005, on site performance surveys were conducted with agencies in Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett, and Calvert Counties, as well the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and the Division of Parole and Probation, Victim Services Unit. Specifically, in 2006 surveys were conducted with agencies in St. Mary's, Harford and Cecil Counties, the Baltimore County Police Department and Department of Juvenile Services Area Directors.

While every agency demonstrated a commitment to compliance with victims' rights, implementation of, and compliance with the statutory provisions continue to be problematic in many agencies. The Compliance Coordinator prepared a Compliance Report containing Conclusions and Recommendations and reported the findings to individual agencies as well the GOCCP and the MSBVS. Agency response to the Findings and Recommendations has, for the most part, been positive.

Technical Assistance

The Compliance Initiative provided direct support to numerous criminal and juvenile justice agencies and developed Guidelines for Processing *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Forms*, which were distributed to all criminal justice agencies in Maryland. This project was conducted in order to assist agents in understanding their statutory responsibility in processing victim notification requests and to ensure such requests are honored.

In addition, the Initiative distributed over 400 copies of *Navigating Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Highway: A Guide to Maryland's Crime Victims' Statutory Rights [CD]*, to state criminal justice agencies. The Guide, a product of a collaborative effort between the GOCCP and the Board, was written in response to request from the many victim services providers across Maryland who expressed a need for guidance in understanding and carrying out their statutory obligations to victims of crime. Specifically, the Guide includes a complete listing of Maryland crime victims' constitutional and statutory rights, as contained in the Constitution of Maryland, Declaration of Rights, Maryland Annotated Code, Criminal Procedure Article, Health General Article, Family Law Article, Criminal Law Article, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, Correctional Services Article and the Maryland Rules. Each citation assists the reader in understanding the statute, to identify the specific right contained in the citation and to associate the agent/agency responsible for fulfilling the statutory mandate.

Other statewide support services were rendered in FY 2003-2006 as issues arose and agencies contacted the Compliance Initiative. Services included consultation, information and referrals on implementation, enforcement, and forms use. These services fostered the ability of governmental entities to better service the crime victim population.

Statistical Overview

Since its inception in late 1999, the Maryland Crime Victim Rights Compliance Initiative has responded to requests for assistance from over 1400 victims of crime.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Requests for Assistance</u>
• 2003	280
• 2004	360
• 2005	319
• 2006 (partial year)	239

Victims' Rights Violation Allegations

Since 2002 the Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator has responded to over 1400 calls and letters, with approximately one third (513) alleging violations of various victim rights. The Compliance Coordinator has responded to calls for general assistance by taking such action as contacting any agency, obtaining copies of documents, providing general explanations of the criminal justice process, offering information and referrals and, in some instances, mediating between the victim and the agent/agency subject of the call for assistance.

Common issues addressed by the Compliance Coordinator included:

- Lack of information regarding case status;
- Frustration with lack of, or limited response to the crime;
- Insensitivity by public officials;
- Lack of communication between criminal justice officials and victims;
- Misunderstanding of civil versus criminal justice system;
- Nonpayment of court ordered restitution;
- Fear of retaliation; and
- Dissatisfaction with/misunderstanding of the criminal justice process.

Specifically, sustained complaints have involved the State's Attorney's Office, law enforcement officers, judiciary, corrections, juvenile intake officers, and probation agents. Violations included:

- Failure to provide notice to a victim of court proceedings;
- Failure to afford a victim the opportunity to be present for entry of a guilty plea;
- Failure to provide a victim the right to attend sentencing of the offender;
- Failure to notify a victim of a probation violation;
- Failure to provide a victim the mandated *Crime Victim and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services* brochure;
- Failure to inform a victim of a proposal to informally adjust a juvenile matter; and
- Failure to provide a victim the opportunity to participate in the informal adjustment process.

In response, several agencies responded to sustained complaints by implementing policy and or systemic changes, incorporating recommendations made as a part of the Compliance Coordinator's Conclusions and Recommendations Report. In addition, complaining victims reported feeling a sense of accomplishment for their role in improving the system's response to victims.

National Victim Rights Compliance and Enforcement Efforts

Virtually every state has passed victims' rights legislation and several, including Maryland, have incorporated some, if not all, victims' rights into their constitutions. Although these statutes and amendments mandate the provision of rights and services,

they do not mandate procedures to compel them. Many victims and victim service professionals believe that one of the greatest challenges of the criminal justice system is ensuring compliance with victims' rights laws.

Recognizing that compliance with victims' rights should be a priority, several states have established programs to assist victims in securing their rights and to provide recourse to victims who feel that their rights have been violated. Currently Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin are operating victims' rights enforcement or compliance programs. Although each state has developed a compliance program to address the needs of their specific state, many of the programs have several similarities.

For example, while all state programs conduct investigations into complaints alleging victim rights violations, the scope of their ability to act differs from state to state. Nearly all states approach the day-to-day case management of complaints on an informal, case-by-case basis; formal investigations are conducted by various means. In addition, response to violations differ and each program uses discretion in responding to violations. Responses range from contacting the agency on behalf of the victim and expressing concern about the issue at hand or suggesting model policies and procedures that the agency can employ to ensure victims' rights are upheld in the future. Although enforcement mechanisms for violations of victims' rights differ from state to state, most, like Maryland, have taken the approach of suggesting procedural changes to achieve compliance rather than imposing remedial sanctions.

In Maryland, upon completion of an investigation, the compliance monitor may issue a report, which outlines recommendations for the agency in order to prevent reoccurrence of the same violation. The report is initially distributed to the Executive Director of the GOCCP for comment and approval. Once approved, the names of the parties are redacted and the report is forwarded to all involved parties. Response to the report and accompanying recommendations is voluntary.

Remedies for Non-Compliance

Each of the thirteen states currently operating compliance/enforcement programs seek to advance the criminal justice system's response to crime victims and all utilize some form of remedial action for non-compliance. Remedies range from acting as a mediator between agency and victims to making public reports to the press and legislature regarding agencies and officials that are found non-compliant to withholding funding of victim service programs. Maryland, like many other states, reports compliance violations to the State Board of Victim Services and the involved agencies or officials with recommendations for systemic improvements. In 2005, a special condition was added to the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund that requires grantees to maintain compliance with statutory obligations to crime victims; penalties for non-compliance include potential loss of grant funds.

VI. The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

The Purpose of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Grant Program

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC Fund) was created by the Maryland General Assembly during the 1991 Legislative Session. The legislation created a source of revenue for programs across the state, dedicated to serving victims of crime. The primary purpose of the MVOC Fund is to ensure implementation of the Declaration of Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution and the Guidelines for Treatment of and Assistance to Crime Victims and Witnesses and other laws adopted to benefit victims and witnesses of crime (MD Ann. Code, Criminal Procedure Article §11-916).

The MVOC Fund receives monies from the court costs in criminal cases pursuant to §7-409 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article as established under MD Ann. Code, Criminal Procedure Article, §11-916. Under the authority of the law the Judiciary in both the District and Circuit Courts has authority to impose fines on convicted offenders. The 1995 Maryland General Assembly passed a bill increasing the fine Courts could impose from \$20 to \$30 in Circuit Court and from \$10 to \$20 in District Court. These additional fees took effect on October 1, 1995. In 1997, the court costs were increased again and codified whereby the Circuit Court fine is now \$45 and the District Court fine is \$35.

The MVOC Fund receives monies from the court costs in criminal cases pursuant to Sec. 7-409 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article (Additional Costs in Criminal Court Cases) and Criminal Procedure Article, Sec. 11-916 State Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund. Both the District Court and the circuit courts have authority to impose fines on convicted offenders. In 1995, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation setting the fines that Courts could impose at \$40 in circuit court cases and \$30 in District Court cases. These court costs were last increased in 1997 to \$45 (circuit court), \$35 (District Court). Additional court costs of \$3.00 are assessed in cases in which the defendant elects to waive the right to trial and pay the fine or penalty deposit established by the District Court. Each fiscal year, from the first \$500,000 collected under this subsection, the Comptroller shall deposit one-half of each court fee into the MVOC Fund, and one-half of each fee into the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.

Collections by Jurisdiction from District Courts in FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006
(Appendix B)

Collections by Jurisdiction from Circuit Courts in FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006
(Appendix C)

Court Costs collections are distributed by the State Comptroller among three victims funds: MVOC (\$22.50 from each fee collected by circuit court; \$12.50 from each fee collected by District Court), Victim Witness Protection and Relocation Fund (\$2.50 from circuit court and District Court fees); and, under Criminal Procedure Article Sec., 11-819 to the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (MCICB).

The Board annually awards MVOC grants to government agencies and private non-profit organizations that provide direct support services to victims of crime for the purpose of developing and enhancing existing programs that serve victims of crime in Maryland. This is to be differentiated from MCICB, which provides monies directly to victims of personal injury crimes, or surviving family members in the case of a homicide, once a claim has been filed and approved. GOCCP is responsible for the administration of grants from the MVOC Fund.

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Process

The Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) is distributed from GOCCP to crime victim programs throughout the State of Maryland announcing the availability of new grant funds to develop and enhance victim assistance programs in Maryland.

The Grant Review Committee created by the Board, is composed of Board members and volunteer victim service professionals appointed by the Board. The Committee is responsible for reviewing the grant proposals and selecting programs to recommend to the Board for funding. At which time the full Board then reviews the recommendations of the Grants Review Committee, which are in turn reviewed by the Executive Director of GOCCP for final approval.

The NOFAs for FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006 were mailed in the month of September, ten (10) months prior to the grant start date on July 1st of the following year. Grant applications are due to GOCCP by the end of November, allowing time for the Board's Grant Review Committee to review and award applicants in December. Within 30 days, applicants are notified via letter of their award or denial of funding, thereby allowing jurisdictions the opportunity to allocate new grant money in budgets for the upcoming year.

Grants Awarded from the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

(Appendix D)

FY 2003

In FY 2003, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling \$1,332,935. New awards totaled \$691,000, and continuation awards for second and third year grants totaled \$641,935 in new awards. Allegany County Detention Center moved to a new location and the Board assisted with related costs for a new VINE interface in their computer system.

FY 2004

In FY 2004, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling \$ 1,408,760. New awards totaled \$ 786,724, and continuation awards totaled \$ 622,036. Included in the new awards is \$3,000 grant to the University of Baltimore, Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland that provided ten (10) \$300 academic scholarships.

FY 2005

In FY 2005, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling \$847,847. Due to the increase in awarding the previous year no new awards were funded. Continuation awards totaled \$ 847,847. For the second time, the Board awarded \$3,000 to the University of Baltimore, Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland that provided ten (10) \$300 academic scholarships.

FY 2006

In FY 2006, the MVOC Fund awarded grants totaling \$ 753,480. New awards totaled \$ 378,239 and third year awards totaled \$ 375,241. Due to no new awards the previous year, there were no second year awards this year. In a creative effort to address over \$2 million received in grant applications, the Board divided a small portion of the funds, (\$40,920) to divide among five private non-profit organizations. Each was awarded \$8,184 and was told to use the money as they saw fit for their organization. The grants were titled “Sustainability Projects” and were GOCCP monitored for designated purpose use. Additionally, the State Board again awarded a total of \$3,000 to the University of Baltimore, Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland that provided ten (10) \$300 academic scholarships.

VII. Other Activities of the State Board of Victim Services

CRIME VICTIM BROCHURES AND FORMS

Pursuant to the mandates of the Constitutional Amendment, Declaration of Rights - Article 47 stating that “*a victim of crime shall be treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal justice process,*” the State Board developed two series of brochures to ensure that victims right to be informed were adhered to by law enforcement personnel, commissioners or juvenile justice intake workers and State’s Attorneys. The statutes, entitled Victims and Witnesses, are detailed in Maryland Ann. Code, Title 11, Criminal Procedure Article. A comprehensive detail of these laws and others related to crime victims may be found in the Compliance Initiative section.

Upon first contact with a crime victim or a crime victim’s representative, a law enforcement officer, District Court commissioner or juvenile intake officer shall give the victim or the victim’s representative the “***CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES: Your Rights and Services***” brochure. This brochure is designed to inform the recipient of their rights and services, while outlining the steps a case may go through in the criminal justice process and explaining the criminal justice system’s responsibilities to crime victims and witnesses. Over the last four years approximately 900,000 copies of the revised ***CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES: Your Rights and Services*** brochures were printed in English and Spanish and distributed throughout the state at a cost to the MVOC Fund of approximately \$126,000. The convenient pocketsize brochure allows for easier

accessibility for law enforcement officers and lower postage costs for the Department of Juvenile Services are required to mail to all victims of juvenile offenses. Over the years brochures are now distributed in a more cost effective format for the State of Maryland. In 2004, the first Spanish brochures were drafted to address the increased Latino population in the state.

In addition, the Victims' Right to Notification Act of 1996, the nation's most comprehensive victim notification statute, mandated the State Board of Victim Services develop and distribute printed material that tells crime victims and witnesses about their right to receive information and services as they participate in the justice process. The "*Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form (CVNDRF)*" is a simple one-page form by which victims formally request to be notified of the status of their court case and the pending release of an offender from custody. The prosecuting attorney is mandated to deliver this form, together with the "*Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process*" brochure, to a crime victim within 10 days of an indictment or information filed in Circuit court. In 2004, the Board redesigned, updated the brochures and distributed to all 24 State's Attorney's Offices at a cost of approximately \$35,000 to the MVOC Fund. Over the next three years additional brochures were distributed in English. In February 2005, a version of the Spanish brochure was printed and distributed statewide.

ANNUAL MARYLAND STATEWIDE MEMORIAL SERVICES

The Victims of Crime Memorial Service is one of two annual events sponsored by the Maryland State Board of Victim Services. The annual service is held to honor those Marylanders who lost their lives to violent crime. The event commences National Crime Victims Rights Week, which is traditionally held on the last Sunday in April.

Pursuant to the recommendations by the Crime Victims Memorial Service Planning Committee, in 1995 three identical services were held simultaneously in three regions as opposed to one single service. In an attempt to accommodate a larger number of participants and to facilitate greater accessibility for surviving family members, services were extended throughout the state. Since 2002, there have been four regional services statewide.

The regions were geographically divided as follows:

Easter Region	Western Region	Southern Region	Northern Region
Caroline	Allegany	Calvert	Anne Arundel
Cecil	Carroll	Charles	Baltimore City
Dorchester	Frederick	Prince George's	Baltimore
Kent	Garrett	St. Mary's	Harford
Queen Anne's	Montgomery		Howard
Somerset	Washington		
Talbot			
Wicomico			
Worcester			

All four services maintained uniformity with opening ceremonies lead by a color guard, musical selections and the symbolic raising of the banner arranged with doves or stars representing those remembered. Two proclamations are presented during the ceremony, one to the hosting State's Attorney, and the other to a Board member.

In 1999, the State Board voted to accept the recommendation of the State Coordinator to allocate \$1,000.00 to each region hosting a memorial service to afford Regional Coordinators the opportunity to plan programs without added concerns of raising money to finance events, and eliminate ensuing ethical concerns of elected officials regarding fund raising. The Board has supported the continuation of funds for each of the regions hosting services.

In 2002, the Crime Victims Memorial Service Core Committee adopted a new theme "Their Light Still Shines," which has remained for the past four years. Representatives from each jurisdiction provided coordination of each region's program.

2003 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

Core Committee members include: Debra Tall (Chair) and Oliver Smith. Regional representatives from Hosting State's Attorney's Offices: Marcia Faries from the Eastern Region; Shirley Haas from the Western Region; Maureen Gillmer from the Northern Region; and Patricia Marshall and Jeannie Copsey from the Southern Region.

The Fourteenth Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 6, in the early evening. The service for the Eastern Region was held at Chesapeake College in Centreville and was hosted by The Honorable Frank Kratovil, State's Attorney's for Queen Anne's County. An estimated 150 surviving family members and friends attended. The Western Region held its service at Westminster Baptist Church, hosted by The Honorable Jerry F. Barnes, State's Attorney for Carroll County. Reports indicate that close to 200 participants were in attendance. The service for the Northern Region was held at the Annapolis Senior High School in Annapolis, hosted by The Honorable Frank Weathersbee, State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County. Approximately 400 guests attended. The service for the Southern Region was held at the Charles County Community Center, hosted by The Honorable Richard D. Fritz, State's Attorney for St. Mary's County. Approximately 200 guests attended.

2004 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

Core Committee members include: Patricia Marshall (Chair) and Oliver Smith. Regional representatives from Hosting State's Attorney's Offices: Kelly Wilkerson, Kathie Madigan from the Eastern Region; Shelby Lowry from the Western Region; Robin Haskins and Pamela Widgeon from the Northern Region; and Melanie Caperonis and Debbie Harden from the Southern Region.

The Fifteenth Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 18, in the early evening. The service for the Eastern Region was held at Preston Volunteer Fire Department in Denton and was hosted by The Honorable Jonathan G. Newell, State's Attorney's for Caroline County. An estimated 150 surviving family members and friends attended. The Western Region held its service at Frederick Seventh Day Adventist Church in Frederick, hosted by The Honorable Scott Rolle, State's Attorney for Frederick County. An estimated 200 participants were in attendance. The service for the Northern Region was held at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, hosted by The Honorable Patricia C. Jessamy, State's Attorney for Baltimore City. Approximately 400 guests attended. The service for the Southern Region was held at the Jaycees Community Center, in Waldorf, hosted by The Honorable Leonard C. Collins, Jr., State's Attorney for Charles County. Approximately 300 guests attended.

2005 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

Core Committee members include: Patricia Marshall (Chair), Debra Tall and Oliver Smith. Regional representatives from Hosting State's Attorney's Offices: Patricia Dickerson from the Eastern Region; Jill Ritter from the Western Region; Beverly Fidler from the Northern Region; and Theresa Waiters from the Southern Region.

The Sixteenth Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 10, in the early evening. The service for the Eastern Region was held at Governor's Hall at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge and was hosted by The Honorable Michelle Barnes, State's Attorney's for Dorchester County. An estimated 150 surviving family members and friends attended. The Western Region held its service at Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hagerstown, hosted by The Honorable Charles P. Strong, Jr., State's Attorney for Washington County. Reports indicate that approximately 200 participants were in attendance. The service for the Northern Region was held at the Edgewood High School in Edgewood, hosted by The Honorable Joseph I. Cassilly, State's Attorney for Harford County. Approximately 300 guests attended. The service for the Southern Region was held at Elks Lodge #2620 in Largo, hosted by The Honorable Glenn F. Ivey, State's Attorney for Prince George's County. An estimated 250 guests were in attendance.

2006 Victims of Crime Memorial Service

Core Committee members include: Patricia Marshall (Chair), Debra Tall and Oliver Smith. Regional representatives from Hosting State's Attorney's Offices: Vy Candelario from the Eastern Region; Paula Slan and Ethel Burnett from the Western Region; Peggy Basham from the Northern Region; and Theresa Waiters from the Southern Region.

The Seventeenth Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 23, in the early evening. The service for the Eastern Region was held at Sturgis Park Pavilion in Snow Hill and was hosted by The Honorable Joel Todd, State's Attorney's for Worcester County. An estimated 125 surviving family members and friends attended. The Western Region held its service at The Elks Lodge in Rockville, hosted by The

Honorable Douglas Gansler, State's Attorney for Montgomery County. Reports indicate that an estimated 250 participants were in attendance. The service for the Northern Region was held at the Perry Hall High School in Baltimore, hosted by The Honorable Sandra O'Connor, State's Attorney for Baltimore County. Approximately 400 guests attended. The service for the Southern Region was held at the Charles County Community Center in, Prince Frederick, hosted by The Honorable E. Gregory Wells, State's Attorney for Calvert County. Approximately 200 guests attended.

GOVERNOR'S VICTIM ASSISTANCE AWARDS LUNCHEON

Since 1994, to conclude the annual observance of National Crime Victims Rights Week in April, the State Board sponsors the Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon. This luncheon has proven to be a rewarding ceremony that highlights those who have dedicated their lives to providing invaluable assistance to victims of crime and improving victims rights throughout Maryland. Additionally, two award plaques are given, one in honor of the late Henry Gleim, and the other in honor of the late Virginia Mahoney. Each award presents its own unique merit for the recipient.

Henry Gleim Memorial Award

In memory of Henry Gleim, an unsung hero who gave unselfishly, generously, courageously and with the compassion for those who walk in the path of victimization, this award recognizes outstanding services to crime victims and those who work to serve them. Generally, only one nominee is selected.

Award Recipients

- 2003 Russell P. Butler, Esq.
- 2004 Gregory Wims
- 2005 Pat Lupson
- 2006 Kathleen (Coursey) Masterson
Jeanne Yeager

Virginia Mahoney Award

In honor of Virginia Mahoney, the State Board recognizes an outstanding leader who has set the standard for excellence and professionalism in the field of victim services. This award recognizes one prominent state leader or high-ranking official who has epitomized true leadership in support of victim rights. Generally, only one nominee is selected.

Award Recipients

- 2003 Denise C. McCain
- 2004 Robin S. Woolford, Jr.
- 2005 Detective David Blazer
Detective Bernard Nelson
- 2006 – No Recipients

Governor's Victim Assistance Awards

The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards are presented to individuals or agencies located in both the public and private sector who have demonstrated outstanding performance in providing services and support to Maryland's victims of crime. Nominee(s) must have made an outstanding contribution toward improving the status of, or delivering services to, crime victims and/or witnesses in Maryland. Award recipients are recognized for their exemplary work done in the area of victim advocacy, that which exceeds what is expected in one's routine job responsibilities. These contributions may involve exceptional efforts in a specific case, on a statewide event or issue, or any effort deemed worthy of recognition by the nominator. The number of recipients for this award is listed under each event year.

2003 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon



The 2003 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday, April 10th at the Hilton Columbia in Columbia, Maryland. The Governor and Roberta Roper provided the welcoming and introduction. This was the first visit from a governor to a luncheon since its inception in 1994. Twenty (20) individuals and one (1) group received the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. Deborah A. Unitus was the Mistress of Ceremonies, the keynote speaker was The Honorable Dennis M. Sweeney and Reverend Sheryl Gaston presented the invocation. There were approximately 250 people in attendance.

2004 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

Their Place Remains



In the Fabric of our Lives

The 2004 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Friday, April 23rd at the Sheraton Baltimore North in Towson, Maryland. The Lieutenant Governor provided the welcome and introduction with Roberta Roper this year. Twenty-three individuals (23) and eight (8) programs/groups/ organizations received the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. Robin S. Woolford, Jr. was the Master of Ceremonies, the keynote speaker was the Lieutenant Governor, and the invocation was fulfilled by Reverend Monsignor Jeremiah F. Kenney. Sheila Orwig, Legal Program Coordinator with Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence presented the Gleim Award to Jeanne Yeager. Roberta Roper and Chief Wayne Livesay with the Howard County presented Kathleen Coursey with the Gleim Award as well. There were approximately 270 people in attendance.

2005 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon



*In helping others, we shall help ourselves,
for whatever is good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.
~ Author Unknown*

The 2005 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Friday, April 22nd at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel in Columbia, Maryland. Roberta Roper provided the welcome and introduction. Twenty-one individuals (21) and seven (7) programs/groups/ organizations received the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. Robin S. Woolford, Jr. was the Master of Ceremonies, the keynote speaker was Alan C. Woods III and Reverend Maceo M. Williams presented the invocation. There were an estimated 300 people in attendance.

2006 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon



"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world."
- William Shakespeare

The 2006 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday, May 4th at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The Governor provided the welcome and introduction then surprised Roberta Roper with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication and service to crime victims in Maryland. After the murder of their daughter, Stephanie in 1982, Roberta and her husband, Vince founded the Stephanie Roper Foundation, now the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center. Soon after they began their legislative quest and successfully passed the majority of victim rights laws in Maryland. To this day, Roberta and Vince continue their efforts to educate those in the criminal justice system and improve rights for crime victims. Roberta serves as chair to the MSBVS, as well as chair to the MCVRC. Twenty- three individuals (23) and eight (8) programs/groups/ organizations received the Governor's Victim Assistance Award. Robin S. Woolford, Jr. was the Master of Ceremonies, the Lieutenant Governor presented the keynote speaker and Reverend Monsignor Jeremiah F. Kenney fulfilled the invocation.

VIII. Legislation

2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Signed by Governor / Passed into law:

Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offender Registration - Change of Name (HB 12)

Synopsis: Requiring a registrant who is granted a legal change of name by a court to send written notice to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services within 7 days after the change is granted; clarifying that a registration statement must include a registrant's full name, including any suffix; requiring a supervising authority to explain to a registrant the requirement to give notice of a name change; requiring the Department to give notice to specified entities of a registrant's change of name; etc.

Criminal Law - Stalking - Included Acts (HB 593)

Synopsis: Clarifying a specified intent element in the crime of stalking; modifying a specified defined term; requiring that a specified person know or reasonably should have known that specified conduct would place another in reasonable fear of serious bodily injury, death, or of specified offenses being committed; etc.

Criminal Law - Identity Fraud – Penalties (HB 598)

Synopsis: Increasing from \$5,000 to \$25,000 the maximum fine for a person knowingly, willfully, and with fraudulent intent possessing, obtaining, or helping another person to possess or obtain any personal identifying information of an individual without consent in order to use, sell, or transfer the information to get a benefit, credit, good, service, or other thing of value of a specified value or greater in the name of the individual; etc.

Victims' Rights - Crime - Definition (HB 705)

Synopsis: Altering the definition of crime in provisions relating to the authority of a court to enter a judgment of restitution and the State Board of Victim Services to include all crimes except non-jailable motor vehicle offenses.

Criminal Law - Identity Fraud - Penalties (SB 135)

Synopsis: Increasing from \$5,000 to \$25,000 the maximum fine for a person knowingly, willfully, and with fraudulent intent possessing, obtaining, or helping another person to possess or obtain any personal identifying information of an individual without consent in order to use, sell, or transfer the information to get a benefit, credit, good, service, or other thing valued at \$500 or more in the name of the individual; etc.

Criminal Injuries Compensation - Awards for Lost Earnings and Injury Resulting in Permanent Total Disability (SB 186)

Synopsis: Providing that the parent or guardian of a specified victim may be eligible for a specified award as a result of caring for the victim; allowing an additional award of up to \$25,000 to a victim if the injury to the victim results in the determination of permanent total disability; etc.

2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Signed by Governor / Passed into law:

Domestic Violence - Protective Order – Penalty (HB 1148)

Synopsis: Providing penalties for failure to comply with specified relief ordered by the court in a final protective order.

Criminal Law - Sexual Solicitation of a Minor (SB 512)

Synopsis: Prohibiting a person, with the intent to commit sexual offenses, from knowingly soliciting a minor, or a law enforcement officer posing as a minor, to engage in activities that would be unlawful for the person to engage in under

provisions for rape in the second degree, sexual offense in the second degree, and sexual offense in the third degree; providing that a specified violation is considered to be committed in the State for purposes of determining jurisdiction if the solicitation originated or is received in the State; etc.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - Extension of Time to File Claim (SB 652)

Synopsis: Extending the time for filing a claim for criminal injuries compensation with the Board of Criminal Injuries Compensation under specified circumstances; and extending the time for filing a claim with the Board in a case of child abuse.

Correctional Services - Standards for Correctional Facilities - Victim Notification and Restitution (SB 883)

Synopsis: Requiring the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations that establish minimum mandatory standards applicable to victim notification and restitution.

2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Sponsored by Administration / Governor:

Criminal Procedure - Victim and Witness Intimidation (SB 188)

Synopsis: Providing that statements made by specified victims or witnesses are not excluded in a judicial proceeding by the hearsay rule under specified circumstances; etc.

Signed by Governor / Passed into law:

Domestic Violence - Protective Orders - Definition of Abuse (HB 327)

Synopsis: Altering the definition of "abuse" applicable to petitions for relief from abuse to include stalking; etc.

Safe Schools Reporting Act of 2005 (HB 407)

Synopsis: Requiring the State Department of Education to require a county board of education to report incidents of harassment or intimidation against students in public schools under the county board's jurisdiction; requiring the State Department of Education to create a standard victim of harassment or intimidation report form; providing for the contents and distribution of the harassment or intimidation form; etc.

Hate Crimes Penalties Act - Expanding Prohibitions and Protected Classes of People

(HB 692)

Synopsis: Expanding the scope of the prohibition against damaging property of places of worship to include any place of worship; expanding the scope of the prohibition against harassment, destruction of specified property, and damage to specified buildings to include sexual orientation of a person or group of people; providing for the construction of specified provisions of law; etc.

Family Law - Local Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams (HB 741)

Synopsis: Authorizing the establishment of local domestic violence fatality review teams; authorizing specified persons to organize a local team; establishing the membership of a local team; requiring a local team to elect a chair; establishing the purposes and duties of a local team; authorizing a local team to review specified criminal cases; exempting specified persons acting within the scope of the jurisdiction of a local domestic violence fatality review team from civil liability under specified circumstances; etc.

Identity Fraud - Police Report (HB 800)

Synopsis: Requiring a local law enforcement agency, after being contacted by a person who knows or reasonably suspects that the person is a victim of identity fraud, to promptly prepare and file a report of the alleged identity fraud and provide a copy of the report to the victim; etc.

Task Force to Study Identity Theft (HB 818)

Synopsis: Establishing a Task Force to Study Identity Theft; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the appointment of a Senate co-chairman and House co-chairman of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation for serving on the Task Force; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement; requiring a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2006; etc.

Crimes and Criminal Procedure - Victim and Witness Intimidation (SB 122)

Synopsis: Prohibiting a person from harming another, threatening to harm another, or damaging or destroying property with the intent to induce a victim or witness not to report the existence of facts relating to a crime or delinquent act; prohibiting solicitation of another person to harm another, threaten to harm another, or damage or destroy property with the intent to induce a victim or witness to avoid testifying at an official proceeding or not to report the existence of facts relating to a crime or delinquent act; etc.

Criminal Procedure - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Eligibility for Awards (SB 151)

Synopsis: Making a parent, child, or spouse of a person incarcerated for abuse eligible for awards from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board if the incarcerated person had been living with and providing financial support for the parent, child, or spouse.

Criminal Law and Procedure - Criminal Gang Offenses (SB 488)

Synopsis: Prohibiting a person from threatening an individual, or a friend or family member of an individual, with physical violence with the intent to coerce, induce, or solicit the individual to participate in or prevent the individual from leaving a criminal gang; prohibiting specified threats or physical violence within a specified distance of specified school property; establishing specified penalties for specified violations of the Act; etc.

2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Signed by Governor / Passed into law:

Sexual Offenders - Supervision, Notifications, and Penalties (HB 2)

Synopsis: Authorizing the Maryland Parole Commission to administer extended sexual offender parole supervision; prohibiting specified sexual acts by specified individuals involving children who are under a specified age; requiring a court to impose a specified sentence for specified offenses under specified circumstances; establishing penalties; requiring the State to notify a specified person of the State's intention to seek a specified sentence; etc.

Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance - Sexual Abuse of a Minor (HB 183)

Synopsis: Providing that it is lawful for an investigative or law enforcement officer to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication in order to provide evidence of the commission of sexual abuse of a minor; etc.

Teachers and School Administrators - Sexual Contact with Students – Prohibition (HB 353)

Synopsis: Prohibiting a person in a position of authority from engaging in a sexual act, sexual contact, or vaginal intercourse with a specified person under a specified age under specified circumstances; defining a term; providing for a statute of limitations for the prosecution of specified misdemeanors created by this Act; etc.

Family Law - Domestic Violence - Address Confidentiality Program (HB 1056)

Synopsis: Requiring the Secretary of State to establish the Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic violence; stating the purpose of the Program; establishing eligibility requirements of the Program; establishing application and participation requirements; requiring an applicant to provide a specified release and waiver; prohibiting false statements in an application; establishing participation cancellation procedures; etc.

Criminal Law - Identity Theft Passports (HB 1201)

Synopsis: Authorizing a person who knows or reasonably suspects that the person is a victim of identity fraud and has filed a specified report to apply for an identity theft passport; requiring a law enforcement agency that receives an identity theft passport application to submit the application and a copy of a specified report to the Attorney General; authorizing the Attorney General, in cooperation with a law enforcement agency, to issue an identity theft passport; etc.

Crimes - Restitution - Victims and Payments (SB 291)

Synopsis: Expanding the list of entities to which restitution can be ordered to be paid for the commission of offenses relating to destructive devices and toxic materials; expanding the list of persons to whom a court is authorized to order restitution; establishing the priority of payment of restitution to a victim; and

establishing that the Department of Juvenile Services shall forward specified restitution to a specified person or governmental unit.

Victim's Rights - Leave to Appeal - Delinquent Acts (SB 508)

Synopsis: Adding to the list of statutes that secure rights to victims of a violent crime, in accordance with which a victim may file an application for leave to appeal from an order that denies or fails to consider such a right; altering the definition of "violent crime" in the statute relating to appeal rights of victims of a violent crime to include a delinquent act that would be a crime of violence if committed by an adult; etc.

Criminal Law - Crimes of Violence - Child Abuse (SB 509)

Synopsis: Adding the crime of child abuse in the first degree to the list of crimes of violence for which specified enhanced penalties are applied to specified offenders.

IX. Milestones and Accomplishments

Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland (RVAAM)

Over a decade has passed since the Board supported the idea of creating a State Victim Assistance Academy and coordinating a victim service provider certification program. The planning came to fruition in 2003 when GOCCP posted a Notice of Funding Availability and received a three-year grant from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) for a State Victim Assistance Academy (SVAA) grant. Each SVAA is based on the National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA) model, but is remodeled to echo the necessities and laws of each state. A SVAA is a 40-hour residential, intensive course in the study of victimology, victim's rights and crime victim services. All SVAA's operated in partnership with an academic institution and are designed to meet the basic-level educational needs of a broad range of victim assistance providers and allied professionals, by providing comprehensive, fundamental, and academically based education. OVC assists and supports SVAA states with planning, developing and sustainability. The SVAA's are an effective way to increase the knowledge of victim service personnel and consequently enhance the services offered to victims of crime in each state.

In 2003, a three-year continuation Federal grant, through DOJ OVC, was awarded to GOCCP for sub-recipient and principle partner the University of Baltimore, in partnership with), in partnership with Hood College and Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Debra L. Stanley is the Project Director for Maryland's SVAA. Dr. Stanley has a wide range of teaching and research experience in the areas of victimology, victim services, domestic violence, child homicide, abuse, and neglect, female offending, and program development and evaluation. Dr. Stanley co-founded the Connecticut SVAA and was a co-author of the curriculum. She was a Steering Committee member, a member of the Curriculum and Academic sub-committees, and a key Faculty member for two years. In addition, Dr. Stanley has vast experience in program curriculum and course development.

She co-developed and authored three-degree programs - Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degree in criminology and criminal justice, and a Master's degree in Correctional Counseling, and she co-founded the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at CCSU

In 2004, the Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland (RVAAM) opened its doors to the first class of students at the University of Baltimore with a commencement of almost fifty graduates. In 2005, Governor Ehrlich presented a proclamation declaring the Academy the *Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland (RVAAM)*. The RVAAM fulfills minimum standards certification as an institute for victim service providers with a comprehensive knowledge base in its curriculum and critical networking. With these baby steps, comes progress. Over the next few years, RVAAM graduated approximately 150 advocates and coordinators throughout the State. Today, with special thanks to Dr. Debra Stanley, Maryland is recognized as one of the nation's leaders in the movement to guarantee basic rights to victims of crime through a comprehensive state victim assistance academy.

X. Recommendations for Improvement of Treatment and Services Available to Maryland Victims of Crime

Subsequent to the October 2006 annual retreat, the State Board of Victim Services has identified the following areas, which are recommended for the improvement of treatment and services for victims of crime. The full implementation of these initiatives will allow for more comprehensive services and treatment to victims, strengthen the role of the State Board and further promote goals of Maryland's Crime Control & Prevention Strategy.

The recommendations are as follows:

- Enhance the current structure and composition of the State Board to include members more diversely representative of crime victims' community and those with professional backgrounds, which inherently lend themselves to the Board's mission.
- Strengthen efforts to monitor state's compliance of all legislatively mandated crime victims' rights laws.
- Make recommendations to the Governor and Lt. Governor on appropriate issues for the annual Maryland Legislative Session to continue to ensure the implementation of all statutory and constitutional crime victims' rights.
- Review the current process for the collection of court ordered restitution payments and make recommendations for improvements for both juvenile and adult offenders.

- Maintain funding for the Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland & develop professional certification standards for all victim assistance personnel to ensure a consistent level of training and service to victims throughout the state.
- Enhance the visibility of the State Board to increase public awareness of victims' rights and services.
- Pursue additional resources to increase staff to full-time assistance for State Coordinator.
- Assist jurisdictions with technological support to facilitate the implementation of an automated victim notification system.
- Conduct a statewide conference and educate state and local criminal justice officials on their statutory responsibility to victims of crime.