



WORKING GROUP ON RESOURCE COORDINATION TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING #3 – APRIL 17, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

ROOM 118, BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND VIA WEBEX.

Welcome and Introduction

- Henry Callegary (Senior Coordination Manager for Public Safety and Accountability) welcomed the members of the Working Group.
- The primary focus of the April 17, 2024 Working Group is to discuss protective orders, peace orders, and trends in Baltimore County Public Schools and higher education regarding sexual exploitation, violence, and abuse.

Updates:

- On April 16, 2024 the Baltimore County Executive, representatives from Greater Baltimore Medical Center (**GBMC**), TurnAround, Inc., the Baltimore County State Attorney's Office, and the Baltimore County Police Department (**BCPD**), held a press conference about sexual assault survivors who received treatment at GBMC between 1977 and 1997, and who can reach out to receive information about DNA evidence in cases that were saved, but never tested. There are more than 1000 cold case slides that have been sent to a lab for DNA testing since November 2023, which should be tested by the end of the year. The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (**MCASA**) will be handling the outreach.

Presentations:

- **Protective and Peace Orders - Officer Darrin Kelly / Domestic Violence Coordinator – Precinct 03**
- Officer Kelly provided a presentation on the protective order/peace order process and procedures.
 - Questions:

- ▲ Can a petitioner find out if a protective order (**PO**) has not been served? Officer Kelly answered that, no, they are not notified directly, but they can use the VINE program and will get notice that the PO has been served. If they PO can't be served it goes back to the court and an extension can be requested.
 - The link for information and electronic brochures:
https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/victimservs/commitment/main_pages/vs-vine.shtml
 - The link to sign up for VINE: <https://vinelink.com/classic/#/home>

- ▲ Are there other ways to register? Officer Kelly stated that pamphlets are given out to petitioners with all the information to register. They can access the VINE Program also through the telephone.

- ▲ Is the information also available in other languages? Officer Kelly answered that he believes it is in Spanish.

- ▲ Dana Cala (Baltimore County Child Advocacy Center) stated that when petitioning for a protective order at the district court, the petition cannot be completed in a language other than English, so there is a big need for bilingual advocates.

- ▲ Do most people sign up for the VINE Program? Officer Kelly states, no, they do not.

- ▲ Rebecca Allyn, Manager of Victim Services Initiatives for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victims Services, gave the following information:
 - There is a grant program through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victims Services that provides law enforcement with resources to meet District and Circuit Court guidelines for efficient and timely serving of protective orders, reducing and minimizing the time between the issuance of ex partes and protective orders and their entry into the MILES/NCIC database.
<https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/dvup/>

- ▲ Henry Callegary asked what is the standard time frame if an officer goes out to the address and the respondent is not there, that they go out again for service? Officer Kelly answered that service is done on the day and evening shifts. Once an order is served, there is a return service that goes to the court, which provide the court with a record of service. Once it is served BCPD documents that the order was served in the event that if there is a violation later, the officer can see that it has been served. If the order is not served, after the court date if it has not been served yet it gets returned to the court unserved. After this point the petitioner has a choice on whether to ask the judge for an extension (judge can extend for up to six months for service). BCPD with continue to make attempts for service.

- ⤴ Is there any information on repeat offenders? Officer Kelly answered, yes, it is known who the repeat offenders are, whether by database or the officer's recognizing the repeat offenders.
- ⤴ Does current law state that respondents can only be served in person? Officer Kelly said yes, in person.
- ⤴ Have other options been considered for trying to serve individuals? Officer Kelly stated that he has heard of using process servers.
- ⤴ If there is a request for an extension on the protective order because the order wasn't served, is the victim allowed to pay for a process server and have the process server meet with BCPD? In reference to the process to serve an individual, are there barriers and challenges that exist that require policy intervention? Officer Kelly answered that yes, they may hire a process server, but BCPD does not meet with them.
- ⤴ Are other individuals living in the home's firearms removed, not just the firearm's registered to respondent? Officer Kelly stated that the respondent's firearms are the only ones removed, including unregistered or ghost guns.
- ⤴ What if a sibling has a firearm, do they also confiscate them? Officer Kelly answered that there are different scenarios, but in a case where a sibling has firearm certain questions are asked e.g., are the firearms secure and does the respondent have access to them? If in this circumstance they have a firearm(s) they are taken for safekeeping.
- ⤴ Could a school get a peace order? Officer Kelly responded that, yes, depending on the circumstances.
- ⤴ If in a school setting, there are two juveniles in a relationship and it is abusive, would that fall under a protective order? Officer Kelly answered that the parent would have to be the petitioner. This would then be heard in the juvenile court.
- ⤴ If it is a bully situation, but not a relationship, it would still be the parents who have to file the petition? Officer Kelly answered that yes, the parents would have to be the petitioner, but a lot of the times the school will directly deal with that situation.
- ⤴ What is the time frame that an ERPO (Extreme Risk Protective Order) good for? Officer Kelly stated, it's good for one year.
- ⤴ What do you believe is working well and what could use improvements? Concerning current policies, procedures, and programs, such as legislation or

support from various groups, what could be provided to make things more successful? What do you believe is working well; what could use improvements? Officer Kelly stated that he could not answer that at this time. Chief McCullough stated that BCPD is making sure that things are done in an efficient and effective manner, which he believes they have achieved in terms of accountability, such as making sure that there are resources available.

- ▲ What are the role of the court advocates? Officer Kelly answered, the DOVE and P.O.A.R.P. programs to assist petitioners.
- ▲ It was stated that there might be a way to partner with colleges so that they are educated on this subject. Officer Kelly said he has gone to Stevenson and spoken to the nursing program about domestic violence.
- ▲ It was stated that TurnAround, Inc. works with the DVC's (domestic violence coordinators in Cockeysville, Towson and Parkville). TurnAround has partnered with Towson University to get a lethality assessment protocol program started. It was asked if that will be the first of its kind? It was answered that yes, it is believed to be the first of its kind.
- ▲ Shelby Frink (Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County) stated that the FCC is working to establish partnerships with various colleges in our area.
- ▲ Chief McCullough stated that the immigrant population needs to be looked at more closely for services.
- ▲ It was stated that it is not monolithic because the American community is incredibly diverse and what works in one community may not necessarily work in the other ones.
- ▲ Dana Cala (Baltimore County Child Advocacy Center) stated that it is important to know also that when petitioning for a protective order at the district court, the petition cannot be completed in a language other than English, so there is a big need for bilingual advocates.
- ▲ It was stated that as far as personnel, there is a Spanish speaking advocate, but only one advocate, but one advocate in an agency does not serve a whole population.
- ▲ Counselman Young stated that he would like to have more data tracking of all the aforementioned information.
- ▲ A team member from BCSTAT stated that part of the goal of BCSTAT is to figure

out where are the discrepancies are and gather that data.

- ▲ Do you have to report back to the court in reference to the served and unserved orders? Officer Kelly answered that yes, it is reported back to the court. Every protective and peace order has a service form, whether the order was served or unserved it goes back to the court.
- ▲ Are there other service providers that may interact with families or individuals in the home, aware of these orders? Are agencies able to talk to each other, how is this information communicated? Agencies have confidentiality clauses, so they can only share information if there is a signed release of information. Therefore, it is the choice of the person who's experiencing the abuse where their information goes, how it shared and what happens with that information.

★ **The entirety of this presentation has been uploaded to the SEVDA webpage.**

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/executive/sevda-working-group>

- **Presentation from Tiffany Eshelman – Title IX Coordinator – Baltimore County Public Schools:**

- Ms. Eshelman presented on the role of Title IX in Baltimore County Public Schools, as well as the trends in sexual violence within the school system.

- Questions:

- ▲ Are the referrals for the supportive measures as well as the processes culturally responsive e.g.; not only talking about language access, but looking into if that student is part of a certain community where there may be community norms or expectations? Ms. Eshelman answered that BCPS partners a lot with different staff within schools that would help navigate that process if there's some cultural barriers and language barriers. In regards to accessing supportive measures, it can also be through the lens of a safety plan if that's needed, and through working with both parent and student.
- ▲ How is that determination communicated to the family? Is there confusion from parents with limited English proficiency about how students are separated and why one student is placed in different school versus not? Ms. Eshelman answered that if it is a Title IX complaint it is investigated in reference to whether or not there is a safety risk involved, if there's an imminent threat, which the School Assessment Team does a risk assessment analysis, to make a determination if we do need to make the most restrictive change of placement for the student pending the Title IX investigation. In addition, we partner with the language line, or other departments where there may be individuals that speak another language to help navigate the conversations with the students and parents.

- ▲ If the training includes information on how to work with multi-lingual, multi-cultural families and some of the immigration consequences to having an allegation against a student or some of the immigration benefits that could happen for the student that is victimized? Ms. Eshelman asked, does the grievance process include that? It was stated, that no, not the grievance process, the trainings you provide? Ms. Eshelman answered, that the trainings that are provided are surrounding the grievance process, how that would unfold, and the reporting requirements. So no, they would not be inclusive of the trainings.
 - Contact information & resources:
 - Tiffany Eshelman
 - Teshelman@bcps.org
 - 443-809-7619
 - Both student and employee grievance process, along with Title IX resources can be found on the BCPS homepage: https://www.bcps.org/dos/safety/title_ix
 - ★ **The entirety of this presentation has been uploaded to the SEVDA webpage** <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/executive/sevda-working-group>
 - **Presentation from Anthony Davis – Towson University – Title IX Coordinator/Civil Rights Investigator:**
 - Job responsibilities:
 - Conducts investigations for allegations such as:
 - Sexual harassment
 - Sexual assault
 - Other sexual misconduct
 - Meeting with students, staff and faculty members etc. who have alleged:
 - Sexual assault.
 - Sexual harassment.
 - Sexual coercion.
 - Sexual exploitation.
 - Provides intake meeting.
 - Policies are the same for students, staff and faculty member.
 - Non-Discrimination process:
 - Covers discrimination based upon sex.
 - Covers other protected classes such as: race, age and disability.
 - When a student, staff, faculty member reports an incident of sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct.

- Supportive measures – for both parties:
 - When an individual reports an occurrence, they meet with Mr. Davis provides them with their rights and responsibilities as a student or employee of Towson State University.
 - Made aware that the individual has the right to supportive measures.
 - No contact order issued, (administrative equivalent to a protective order).
 - Room transfers.
 - Academic accommodations.
- Formal investigation or informal resolutions:
 - Informal resolution – both parties need to agree.
 - Cannot offer informal resolutions for incidents involving sexual assault, sexual coercion or if the responding party is an employee and the reporting party is a student.
 - Formal investigation provides – support person or persons. A formal complaint form is sent to the reporting individual. Once returned a summary will be drafted of the allegations, which is sent to the reporting party.
 - The reporting party is responsibility to confirm it for accuracy, when it is then attached to the formal complaint form.
 - An issuance of investigation/allegations are sent to the responding party.
 - An investigation will begin e.g., interviews with both parties, witnesses, gather any relevant documentation.
 - A final investigation report is drafted.
 - Both parties are provided a copy of the final investigation report for review.
 - Both parties have 10 days to provide a written statement regarding the final report.
 - The final investigation report then goes to the legal department for review. Then it is sent to both parties.
 - A hearing will then take place, whereas a resolution of the allegation will be sought in a timely manner, which could take a minimum of six months.
- ▲ The question was asked, what does the university do when an individual reports a sexual assault, does it automatically get turned over to the policing authority? Mr. Davis answered, that no, it does not automatically get reported to the policing authority.
- ▲ The question was asked, how many incidents are being investigating in the current calendar year? Are there trends, decreasing, increasing? Mr. Davis answered, yes, usually there are more cases in the fall semester, e.g., Fall 2023 Semester – 106 cases (see recording for a breakdown of cases.)

- ▲ The question was asked, are the parents of students informed of the alleged incident? Mr. Davis answered, no, because of confidentiality.
- Effects:
 - Typically, students do not want to move forward with a formal investigation if they were denied a protective order by a judge.
 - Academics are negatively affected, which leads to a high request for academic accommodations for students who have alleged some type of sexual harassment or sexual assault.
- ▲ Henry Callegary asked, is data tracked in respects to how many students leave and never return, based on allegations of Title IV violations? Is there any outreach to students on the reason for leaving? Mr. Davis answered, to his knowledge, no.

★ **Entirety of the presentation is uploaded to the SEVDA webpage:**
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Next meeting:

- A proposed June meeting date will be circulated by Henry Callegary to the Working Group members.