

D15A0516
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Agency Responses to DLS Analysis and Recommendations
FY 2018 Governor's Allowance

Chair: Keith E. Haynes
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Chair: James E. DeGrange, Sr.
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee
Monday, February 13, 2017

The agency should discuss whether implementation of any Statewide Victim Services Needs Assessment-related recommendations have begun or will begin in fiscal year 2018, the projected fiscal 2018 impact, and any impact on Victims of Crime Assistance grant programs going forward. (pg. 3)

- The Office retained Strategy and Management Services, Inc. (SAMS) to conduct the Statewide Victims Services Needs Assessment. The Assessment has served and will continue to serve as a template for funding decisions, as well as to ensure that programs and services are responsive and equitable to the needs of crime victims throughout the State of Maryland. Additionally, the report identified areas that the Office should give priority attention in its efforts to promote access to victim services, especially for the underserved, while executing the goals of federal grants awarded to Maryland. The Assessment was used as a tool to assist us strategic planning and determining funding needs for the FY 2016 grant application cycle.
- The Final Report's recommendations were incorporated in the FY 2016 Victims of Crime Act Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) Application Guidance Kits and used as a tool for distribution of funding. It is the intent of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to utilize the various boards and commissions it participates in to keep the Needs Assessment relevant in coming years.

Issues

GOCCP should provide an update on the status of the JRA implementation and how the provisions taking effect on October 1, 2017, will impact the 2018 budget and needs compared to the fiscal note's estimate of anticipated savings and expenditures. (pg. 3)

and;

Recommended Actions

- 1. Adopt narrative requesting a report on the status of the Justice Reinvestment Act implementation and how the provisions taking effect on October 1, 2017, will impact the agency's fiscal 2018 outlook. (pg. 4)**

The Office spent substantial time in the 2016 interim working on issues and reports required by the Justice Reinvestment Act. The Oversight Board met for the first time in early January 2017. The Office is developing performance measures that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the reforms. We will be working with various entities and stakeholders regarding the development of these measures. We are further in the process of hiring a Justice Reinvestment Director to work full time on these issues and may ask another employee to provide assistance.

We are also working now to appoint two other entities required by the Justice Reinvestment Act, the Justice Reinvestment Local Government Commission and the Advisory Board to the Oversight Board.

In the Fall 2016 the Office provided nearly \$1 million in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants to Justice Reinvestment Act initiatives. In 2017 we plan to fund similar initiatives with the Byrne Justice Assistance grants. Further, the federal Victims of Crime Act funds will be used to provide funding for victims' services, a key element of the Justice Reinvestment Act.

The substantive changes to the State's criminal justice, corrections, and public safety laws will take effect October 1, 2017. These changes will not directly impact our Office. We will be involved in implementation efforts, primarily through our role of staffing the Oversight Board. The Oversight Board will spend the next several months communicating and planning for implementation. Part of this planning will involve making recommendations regarding the need for grants and funding. Our office will be fully engaged in these efforts. Because the Act will be effective October 1, 2017, we do not anticipate any savings during fiscal year 2018.

Performance Analysis: Managing for Results

GOCCP should comment on both substance abuse-related recommendations, including the progress made on signing up counties for Datalink and additional substance abuser performance measure initiatives. (pg. 11)

As of December 2016, the Datalink program is now up and running in Montgomery County, bringing the total number of active jurisdictions (including DPSCS) to 15. Cecil County is expected to implement the program in the near future. Additionally, the subcommittee has seen positive movement toward implementation in a number of counties that have long proven difficult to engage, including Garrett, Worcester and Somerset. The subcommittee is also working to collect feedback about the program from various stakeholder communities. Surveys will be sent to core service agencies and local detention centers in the coming weeks. Additionally, Beacon Health Options issued a provider alert to inform community mental health

and substance use disorder providers about the program, and a survey may be extended to that community as well. It is hoped that the anecdotal information collected via these surveys, combined with the concrete data gleaned from the continuing collection of aggregate quantitative data, will inform a report demonstrating the impact of the program.

GOCCP is diligently working to develop outcome based performance measures throughout the office to help the state make better data driven decisions. Some of these measures will be created to assess the effectiveness of substance use treatment on offenders under community supervision who suffer from addiction. Some of these measures will be tracked as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative process.

Fiscal 2017 Actions

GOCCP should comment on the Peer Recovery Specialist and Heroin Coordinator additions to the Safe Streets program along with a projected timeline for initial program results. (pg. 17)

As part of the Heroin Task Force Recommendations put forth by the Lieutenant Governor in 2015, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention allocated Maryland Safe Streets funding to integrate recovery into the safe streets model by employing peer recovery specialists within the units, and funded 17 county level heroin coordinator positions and state position to support the centralization of drug related law enforcement intelligence in Maryland.

Five sites received funding for peer recovery specialists to integrate treatment into the model, including: Anne Arundel County, Dorchester County, Frederick County, Cecil County, and Salisbury. Three recovery specialists have been hired in Anne Arundel County, Cecil County and Salisbury respectively. By the second quarter of 2017, GOCCP will be able to report Peer Recovery responses to arrestees and referrals given during initial contact with the substance abuse victims, and fulfillment of funded positions.

Thus far, ten out of the 18 Heroin Coordinator positions have been filled. As a result of the Heroin Coordinator program, 1,853 overdose related entries were collected from agencies receiving grants for Heroin Coordinators since the inception of the program. This enables analysis of data crossing jurisdictional boundaries to identify repeat overdose victims for priority referral to treatment. By the end of the first quarter 2017, the program will be able to report results of data points collected, number of investigations enhanced, and number of traffickers identified. By the end of the program year in June 2017, the program will be able to report the number of individuals referred to crisis intervention or public health for treatment and follow-up.

GOCCP should comment on the impact that the funding cuts will have on the victim population and victim service providers. In addition, the agency should comment on

what steps are being taken to create a contingency plan that sustains some level of victim services and/or locates new sources of funding. (pg. 20)

- If Federal funds are cut, GOCCP and locals will also feel that effect. GOCCP does not have additional federal or State funds to make up for other areas cut.
- Our Notice of Funding Availability includes a requirement that applicants should demonstrate sustainability plans and the ability to leverage funding within their own jurisdictions so that in the event of cuts to funding, a plan will be in place.
- With the influx possibility of another large VOCA award, this may assist if some cuts are made but is not a long-term option.

Recommendations

DLS recommends that GOCCP comment on whether implementation of any Statewide Victim Services Needs Assessment-related recommendations has begun or will begin in fiscal 2018, the projected fiscal impact, and any impact on Victims of Crime Assistance grant programs going forward. (pg. 29)

- The Office retained Strategy and Management Services, Inc. (SAMS) to conduct the Statewide Victims Services Needs Assessment. The Assessment has served and will continue to serve as a template for funding decisions, as well as to ensure that programs and services are responsive and equitable to the needs of crime victims throughout the State of Maryland. Additionally, the report identified areas that the Office should give priority attention in its efforts to promote access to victim services, especially for the underserved, while executing the goals of federal grants awarded to Maryland. The Assessment was used as a tool to assist us strategic planning and determining funding needs for the FY 2016 grant application cycle.
- The Final Report's recommendations were incorporated in the FY 2016 Victims of Crime Act Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) Application Guidance Kits and used as a tool for distribution of funding. It is the intent of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to utilize the various boards and commissions it participates in to keep the Needs Assessment relevant in coming years.

GOCCP should comment on the formation of the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Oversight Committee, projected timeline, future audits, and other steps taken to fulfill the recommendations in the State Attorney's General's report. (pg. 4 and 30)

As a response to the survey results completed by GOCCP, the Attorney General's Office formed a Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Oversight Committee which was tasked making recommendations and researching best practices regarding the testing, storing, and disposal of sexual assault evidence kits. Legislation is being proposed (SB 349) that addresses some of the recommendations made in the report including requiring a health care provider to provide a victim of sexual assault with written information describing the laws and policies governing the

testing, preservation, and disposal of a sexual assault evidence collection kit. In addition, this legislation is proposing to prohibit a law enforcement agency, government agency, or health care provider from destroying or disposing of a sexual assault evidence collection kit or other crime scene evidence relating to a sexual assault within 20 years after the evidence is collected.

GOCCP should comment on the progress of the VSU consolidation, timeline, and potential savings. (pg. 4 and 31)

The Office has proposed departmental legislation to establish a Victim Services Unit under the Office. Two existing programs, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board currently under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Sexual Assault Forensic Unit currently under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, will be moved to the new unit. The Survivors of Homicide grant program which is currently run by the office will also be a part of the new unit. In addition, the unit will also be responsible for collecting data and working to improve restitution. The Office plan to use federal Victims of Crime Act funds to fund two new employees to work on restitution issues. It is hoped that the bill will be introduced this week in the House and, if passed, will be effective January 1, 2018.