

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

FY 2014-2015
ANNUAL REPORT



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Montgomery County, Maryland
2014-2015 Annual Report
Advocating for Victims of Crime

MISSION STATEMENT

To support Montgomery County's commitment to serving victims of crime and their families. These crimes include: rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, homicide, adults molested as children, terrorism, hate violence, robbery, driving while intoxicated (DWI), vehicular manslaughter, assault, battery, burglary, arson, larceny, stalking, carjacking, harassment, vandalism and bullying.

MANDATE

The Board must periodically

- Review available services and facilities for victims and their families.
- Determine the needs of victims and families; which includes services and programs.
- Submit at least one report annually to the County Executive and County Council on the progress of programs to victims and their families. Additionally the board submits actions needed to improve those programs.
- Make recommendations for appropriate allocation of funds in accordance with agreed upon priorities and consideration of financial resources.

The Board also assists the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services in the development of the Annual Victim Services and Families Plan. Moreover, acts as a local advocate for victim services programming.

Montgomery County Code -- Art. VII, Section 24-56.

Visit Our Website:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap
www.vasap.org (Click on Advisory Board)

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS, Judith Whiton, Yumiko Ito & Sorell Schwartz

Dear County Executive Leggett and County Council:

In this annual report of the Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB), we are pleased to announce important strides in meeting the Board's mandate prescribed by the Montgomery County Code to write, advise policy makers, and administration officials on legislation, policy, and best practices that are of benefit to victims of crime in Montgomery County. The VSAB's 2014-2015 priorities were focused on a broad range of issues including, but not limited, to:

2014 - 2015 Priorities/Accomplishments

- Transitional/permanent housing for domestic violence victims.
- Partnership with diverse communities.
- Fundraising for victim's compensation fund and identifying additional resources for victims.
- Creating an awareness plan for VSAB and for Trauma Services: Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) and Abused Persons Program (APP).
- Supporting non-governmental agencies and non-profits that advocate for victims ex. Court Watch Montgomery County.

Additionally, the VSAB has devoted a significant amount of time identifying and advocating for certain budget priorities amidst this most recent budget crisis. This advocacy was and continues to be, premised on the notion that the offices within County and County's government must provide adequate funding to serve crime victims.

To determine the impact of major budget cuts on County programs that provide services to crime victims, VSAB conducted interviews of various affected departments and compiled the results for this report. The VSAB understand that the need for victim services will never fully be met due to the financial constraints faced in today's economy, however; the need for consistent quality in those services must be met.

Moving forward, the VSAB will continue to carry on the task of providing both you and the County Council with recommendations on how best to meet the needs of victims and their families in Montgomery County, to serve the community, and on behalf of the members, the VSAB, respectfully share our report with your office.

Sincerely,

Judith Whiton, Yumiko Ito & Sorell Schwartz

Co-Chairs, Victim Services Advisory Board



MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP 2015

MEETINGS

The Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Office of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, 1301 Piccard Drive, Fourth Floor Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The Board does not meet in August and combines its November and December sessions into one meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

MEMBERSHIP

Judith Whiton (co-chair)
Yumiko Ito (co-chair)
Sorell Schwartz (co-chair)
Gerda Gallop-Goodman
Louise Kauffmann

Bonnie Muheim
Parker O'Shea
Rosemary Pascarella
Anita Pinto
Betty Smith

EX-OFFICIO

Ellen Alexander (Montgomery County Police)
Michael Subin (Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee)
VACANT (Office of Public Defender)
Stefan LoBuglio (Department of Correction and Rehabilitation)
Amy Bills/Rebecca Marcolini (State's Attorney's Office)
Teresa Bennett (HHS)
Rafiah H. Prince (HHS)
Ellen Wachter (HHS)



BOARD INTERACTION

- Met with County's housing programs and housing advocacy groups to further develop a strategy to securing more long-term and transitional housing space for DV victims and their families in the County.
- A Board Member met with Seneca Heights principles to discuss the possibility of low cost housing arrangements for domestic violence victims.
- Met with court accompaniment and outreach volunteers from the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program and Abused Persons Program to share their first-hand experiences as volunteers.
- Crafted an Awareness Plan to promote knowledge sharing of available victim services in the County. Media advisory and press release were issued for the VASAP Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in May 2015.
- Surveyed County and private victim service providers for service delivery, mission goals, needs, and gaps. Compiled the results in the annual report on VSAB's activities.
- Provided testimony before the County Council and the Council's HHS Committee on policy needs and funding gaps for crime victim's programs.



MAJOR ISSUES

TRANSITIONAL/PERMANENT HOUSING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS LEAVING THE BETTY ANN KRAHNKE CENTER (BAK)

Finding transitional housing and/or a system for prioritizing domestic violence victims' access to long-term housing was the Victim Services Advisory Board's top priority in FY 2014 and 2015.

BAK Discharge Challenges: the 2013 VSAB report documented the challenges faced by DV victims leaving the Betty Ann Krahnke Center. These victims are provided temporary shelter and appropriate wrap-around services at the BAK. However; DV victims often over stay the prescribed period of residence of 2 to 3 months because of the unavailability of transitional and long-term housing. Many clients remain at BAK about 6 months. Those unable to transition from BAK to safe conditions are provided temporary hotel housing; which is expensive and wholly inadequate with respect to protection from abusers. The Board considered the need for a transitional housing program serving young female-headed households most vulnerable to the effects of domestic violence that would:

1. Help break the cycle of violence and dependency.
2. Deliver supportive case management services.
3. Afford time to build needed life skills (e.g. education, GED, vocational, parenting).
4. Provide increased trauma recovery and empowerment.
5. Offer a resolution of housing barriers (e.g. legal problems, identifying appropriate long term housing).
6. Such a program would provide service for 1 year, with 3 month extensions, as needed, to achieve progress toward individual growth.

Transitional Housing

The VSAB began to explore the options available for both transitional and permanent housing in its general meetings. An appointed task force met with County leaders to discuss possibilities for transitional housing and strategies for obtaining it. Meetings were held with: Dr. Raymond Crowell, Chief of Behavioral Health Services, to review BAK discharge challenges; Nadim Khan, Chief, Special Needs Housing, DHHS; and Sara Black, Senior Administrator Housing Stabilization Services, to review the County's policies on homeless and priorities for the homeless; David Dice, of the Department of General Services, to discuss the possibility of renovating the Fleet Street townhouses for use as transitional housing.

As a pilot project, two of the Fleet Street townhouses have since been secured for transitional housing and are currently earmarked for domestic violence victims and their families. The



Department of General Services is refurbishing these homes in order to house as many as 4 families transitioning from the BAK. There is, however, no budget for appropriate case management services for domestic violence victims. The families cannot be moved until case management is in place. Family Services Inc. has since applied for a Federal Department of Justice Grant (\$100,000) for case management services but unfortunately the grant was not funded. VSAB will continue to actively seek funds for and support all efforts to raise funds for crucial case management services.

Permanent Housing

Transitional housing can only support the needs of a few families and cannot make up for the lack of permanent low-cost housing for domestic violence victims in the County. Many domestic violence victims leaving the BAK do not qualify or take precedence for permanent low-cost housing. The average wait is one year for a housing voucher. Domestic violence on the housing wait-list is worth a one point allowance which does not provide enough points to secure permanent housing.

Some of these victims might also have a legacy of legal problems, bad credit, and unresolved criminal charges some resulting from attempts to defend themselves from their abusers. Their records must be clear for 3 years before they can be considered eligible for housing.

Further, other housing programs in the County are not available to them. They do not qualify for permanent supportive housing services, which require a documented disabling condition. Some victims do not meet the criteria of “persistent mental illness” that would qualify them for McKinney grant housing. Often with no alternative but living with a relative or friend, with constant moves to avoid their abusers, even the most resilient of these victims are at risk for homelessness or returning back to abusers. To ensure their long-term safety, shelter clients should be prioritized for access to long term housing.

The VSAB will continue to focus on eligibility criteria for permanent housing for domestic violence victims. Meetings have already taken place with Chuck Short, Special Assistant to the County Executive (January, 2014), in an effort to develop a plan for prioritizing domestic violence victims in the housing pipeline. Mr. Short identified a number of strategies to pursue. These include: (1) the possibility of working with housing advocacy groups and constituencies in the County to identify approaches to securing low cost properties and rebuilding these properties to be earmarked for domestic violence victims and their families; and (2) collaborations to develop a housing voucher program for domestic violence victims and their families.

VSAB members have also met with County leaders from Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) to learn how the voucher system is structured, applying lessons learned to DV vouchers and housing alternatives. Members will meet with Councilman George Leventhal, who currently heads up the homeless initiative in the Council. These coordinated efforts are directed toward making a case to the State as to the need for a voucher system prioritizing domestic violence victims in Montgomery County. Finding adequate housing is a unique challenge facing domestic violence victims. It cannot be resolved by paying for more expensive hotel facilities or by securing another shelter. To close the service gaps, some sort of transitional housing such as that proposed for Fleet Street is required that would afford these victims an opportunity to transition to permanent housing. Fleet Street can only provide transitional housing for one or two families. Shelter clients should be prioritized for access to long term housing.



AWARENESS PLAN

VASAP and APP have been in existence in the County for many years; nonetheless they are not well-known entities to the general public or to many of the organizations that serve County residents in similar capacities known to them. They are often referred to as the County's "best kept secrets." VASAP and APP are staffed by talented and dedicated professionals, but the programs also rely on grant funding and volunteers to sustain their trauma services.

Increased awareness for these programs is needed in order to raise much-needed funds, recruit volunteers, and ensure continued services to victims in need and their families. The following plan provides some direction to increase awareness, raise funds for services that directly – and immediately – impact victims, grow the volunteer corps to sustain 24/7 outreach to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and position Montgomery County as a leader in victim assistance programming. To this end, the VSAB will establish an initiative to serve as a premier source of victim data and resources in Montgomery County, educate the public, media and other County agencies about VASAP and APP services through media outreach, educational materials and community events; highlight Board and program milestones and accomplishments, and foster ongoing relationships with like-minded groups. The Board has already begun establishing a clearinghouse of victim statistics and work to develop educational materials and to establish a speaker's bureau.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY TO STATE LEGISLATORS

The VSAB, *per se*, is not authorized by charter to lobby before the State Legislature, but individual advocacy by its members, as citizens, for victim-related state legislation is a crucial part of its function. Members are apprised of upcoming victim-related legislation and regularly briefed on bills sponsored by the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, by MCASA and by the MNADV; as well as other County and State agencies throughout the year.

In 2014, the VSAB also appointed a board member to join the weekly legislative teleconference call piloted by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), enabling Board members to be continually updated of the status of domestic violence-related bills and strategies for their passage throughout Maryland's 2015 legislative session. Board members advocated for domestic violence bills which successfully passed in the 2015 session: one expands the relief available in a final protective order providing greater protection and flexibility in addressing the individual needs and circumstances of victims and their families; another bill expands the "persons eligible for relief" in the protective order statute to include cases involving parties who had a consensual or non-consensual sexual relationship. This new law will provide significant legal protections for victims/survivors of sex crimes and dating violence that had been unavailable to them under the peace order statute.



FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, the Board explored various venues for supporting and growing the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund (CVCF). Among the suggestions were to increase the use of social media to raise funds, particularly on milestone weeks or months that commemorate victims such as National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 21-27) and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) as well as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Volunteer Month (April). The Fundraising committee of the Board will continue to explore ways to raise additional monies for the fund. The statute that governs the Montgomery County Crime Victims' Compensation Fund allows 10% of monies collected to be spent to advertise and hold fundraising events.

Currently, the Board is exploring the viability of gathering victim stories to develop a fundraising letter to be distributed to board members' associates. This effort includes: the collection of information about victims' services in the County, so this information can be distributed at fairs, public meetings, and by means of pamphlets. This effort is currently underway, along with additional efforts to identify opportunities for fundraising on behalf of the Montgomery County Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

COURT WATCH MONTGOMERY

The VSAB continues to support the work of Court Watch Montgomery (CWM), an all-volunteer non-profit organization that seeks to promote best practices in the court system that will ensure the safety of domestic violence victims and their children and increase offender accountability.

In previous reports, CWM published its findings and recommendations on monitoring of peace/protective order hearings in the County's District and Circuit courts. Judges in both courts have adopted some of these recommendations: 1) the use of staggered exit/victim first, delaying the respondent in court and allowing the petitioner to leave the courthouse and reach her/ his transportation safely; 2) reiterating to each respondent that violating a protective order is a crime and reminding respondents they must turn in their firearms for the duration of an order; 3) providing more thorough introductions to the docket (the District Court produced an audio introduction in English and Spanish that is played at the beginning of each domestic violence docket).

More recently, CWM turned its attention to how the Circuit Court handled issues involving children (emergency custody, visitation and emergency family maintenance) and published its findings in "Circuit Court Protective Order Practices in Domestic Violence Cases: In the Best Interests of the Child?" CWM recommended court processes that can significantly impact the safety, stability, and nurturance of a child living with domestic violence. CWM recommends increased referrals of children to *Safe Start* counseling services as well as taking advantage of the financial remedies available under the Protective Order statute in the form of emergency family maintenance, often the only way victim/petitioners can keep themselves and their families safe while awaiting formal custody and visitation determinations.

The report documents a real need for an affordable monitored child transfer facility for families to safely exchange children for visitation. Furthermore, a need for a supervised visitation Center where an offender's interactions with his children might be safely supervised by a trained individual in protective order cases where this is deemed necessary.



BUDGET PRIORITIES

The VSAB supports Montgomery County's commitment to serving victims of crime. Victim services contribute to health, mental health, and safety within the community. They are part of the County government's fundamental responsibilities and should be a priority in the next fiscal year.

Overall, victim services have absorbed severe budget cuts even as the County population continues to increase. The decrease in funding and staffing levels has had a negative impact on many services for crime victims.

The VSAB has identified the following budgetary priorities:

- Increase available housing for domestic violence victims – As was noted earlier, a positive step was achieved with two Fleet Street properties, but awaits refurbishment, which is estimated to take some months. Further, this designated property is a start, but in no way addresses the much larger need for affordable long-term housing for DV victims. Currently, the VSAB is identifying approaches to address transitional housing budget issues and will identify projected costs of these approaches.
- Restoration of Trauma Services Staff to previous levels of services. The Abused Persons Program and the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program serves crime victims, particularly victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and violent crimes, by providing assistance within the District and Circuit Courts, therapeutic intervention, and guidance in applying for victim compensation. Due to ongoing cuts, services of both the therapists and victim assistants are critically compromised. The Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program has lost a total of 45 hours weekly of victim assistance services due to these cuts. (\$59,000 per year) APP had 3 full time Victim Assistant positions cut from its budget, plus a ½ time county funded Victim Assistant from VASAP. Further, following the retirement of the Supervisory Therapist who, among other duties, oversaw much of the VASAP District and Circuit Court victim advocate functions, this position was moved out of VASAP. The consequences from the loss of the Supervisory Therapist and Victim Assistants are: (1) delays in processing of compensation cases for crime victims; (2) reduced court coverage in both Circuit and District Courts where crime victims seek (a) immediate assistance and relief from their crime victimization (b) connections to ongoing clinical and victim assistance services.
- The Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program and Abused Persons Program have a volunteer program that support outreach to sexual assault and domestic violence victims. There is a pressing need to maintain sufficient staff at VASAP and APP to keep the two volunteer programs afloat, particularly to maintain a presence in the courtroom and courthouse where services of court companions are needed. VSAB will continue efforts to educate board members and County leaders about the importance of this volunteer component and the need to maintain staff levels at both VASAP and APP (2 Full time Victim Assistant positions to replace over 4 FTE budget reductions).



Other Resources Needed:

- 1) **Montgomery County Police Department**
Reinstatement of one victim coordinator cut position
- 2) **State's Attorney's Office**
Additional victim advocates
Allocation for victim/witness coordinator
- 3) **Family Justice Center**
Provide support for services for families at risk for domestic violence
- 4) **BAK**
Funding for a child therapist
- 5) **Safe Start**
Additional funds for individual counseling and therapy
- 6) **Corrections**
Integrated electronic judiciary system, which would assist in automated real-time alerts regarding victims who may have protective orders and/or warrants in place
- 7) **Treehouse**
Requires one therapist- there is no therapist coverage on Fridays in their offices



SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS/SURVEYS

VSAB INTERVIEWS WITH VICTIM-SERVING PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND

Each year, VSAB members conduct interviews with representatives from various victim services agencies and organizations within Montgomery County. The purpose of the interviews is to (1) gain a clear, in-depth understanding of the range of services available to victims of violence (2) identify strengths and areas of need within local programs (3) solicit suggestions for how the Victim Services Advisory Board could help local agencies and organizations sustain and scale-up their programs.

This year, the VSAB expanded the number of organizations interviewed to include several smaller agencies that serve specific populations. The organizations included: the Department of Corrections-Rehabilitative Services, and several state-funded agencies that work within the County. This is in recognition of the fact that the County requires a broad range of victim services to meet the needs of an increasing and diverse population. Moreover, the VSAB continues to identify more specialized needs and populations as crimes against targeted populations, such as the elderly and victims of human trafficking, continue to grow. Many crime victims and their families will require the help of three or more agencies at the same time to overcome crisis situations and the aide of several more to heal over time from the after effects of crime. The extent to which each agency can provide adequate services depends on how well they interact, maintain open communications, and sustain an effective system of cross-referrals and adequate staffing.

This list of interviewees is by no means exhaustive and the VSAB intends to continue to expand the number of agencies interviewed each year and to capture the exact number of victims each agency serves annually. VSAB will also produce a service directory that will itemize victim services available in the County, with contact information and a brief description.

SCOPE OF INTERVIEWS

The interview focused on the populations served by each program, types of services offered, programmatic strengths and areas of need, challenges, and ways VSAB can help programs advance their goals. Each interviewee was asked the following questions about his/her program:

Population and Services

1. *What program/services do you offer for crime victims?*
 - a. *What specific populations do you serve?*
2. *How many crime victims do you serve within a year?*
 - a. *Have you found your population size has changed over the last year?*



3. *What are your priorities for the population of victims you serve in the County?*
4. *Are there any new opportunities or initiatives you are pursuing?*
5. *What are challenges your program faces in accomplishing these new opportunities and/or initiatives?*

Budgeting

6. *What funds do you have at your disposal?*
7. *Do you feel like your current funding is adequately allocated for your program? If not, what do you feel is lacking?*
8. *How have recent budget cuts impacted your program's ability to provide services to the population of crime victims that you serve? If so, in what manner?*
9. *Do you use volunteers? If so, how many, and in what capacity? Do you feel your staffing is adequate to maintain your volunteer program?*
10. *If you were to have additional funding, how would you incorporate it into your program? Restore cuts? Improve services? New services? Add new FTEs?*

Performance

11. *What do you feel are your program's strengths? What is your program doing well?*
12. *How do you measure the success of your program and services?*
13. *Can you tell me about a time when you or one of your staff members felt that you truly made a difference or positively impacted the life of a client with your program or services?*
14. *What specific challenges do you face in serving the County's victim population?*
15. *What do you think needs to change in terms of services, integration with other agencies?*
16. *How can the Board help you in its capacity as an advisory Board to the Montgomery County Council and Executive?*

Services and Populations Served

While their particular programs and populations may differ, agencies and organizations serving victims of violence in our County are involved in remarkable and innovative efforts to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, homicide, bullying, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse, and other forms of violence. Their focused efforts are enhanced by the collaboration of the criminal justice system and department of corrections to ensure that victim rights to notification and input are preserved at each step of the criminal process. The twelve programs explored through VSAB interviews collectively serve tens of thousands of people each year.



Table 1: Local Victims Services Organizations

Agency/ Organization	POPULATION SERVED	SERVICES OFFERED
Family Justice Center	Any victim of domestic violence	Temporary protective orders; victim assistance Civil legal assistance Counseling for victims and children Referrals to DV shelter and Crisis Center <u>Co-located services:</u> Sheriff's office, Police Department DV/sexual assault unit, APP, House of Ruth, JCADA, victim assistants, civil legal assistance, counseling for victims and children, referrals to DV shelter and Crisis Center, Safe Start Counseling
Betty Ann Krahnke Center Shelter	DV survivor, victim of sexual assault or trafficking in imminent danger	Safe and secure shelter for survivors. Case management Support groups Legal advocacy Child therapy
Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program	Victims of rape, sexual assault, homicide (family and survivors), DWI, DUI, human trafficking, hate violence, other violent crimes	Information Referral, Advocacy Crisis and ongoing counseling Criminal justice support Compensation services for crime victims
State's Attorney's Office/ State's Attorney's Victim Assistance Unit	Victims in all Circuit Court criminal cases	Keep victims informed of available services and court dates Assist prosecutors coordinating victims/witnesses in criminal cases Assist in witness relocation
MCPD Victim Assistance Unit	Any victim of crime, or survivor of a victim of crime occurring in the County	Triage crisis intervention consisting of decentralized victim advocates who help victims meet immediate needs and provide linkages to additional services
Abused Persons Program	Any victim of domestic violence residing in the County and Abuser Intervention Program for Abusers	Crisis services Short and long term counseling Advocacy Criminal justice support Domestic violence shelter, Safety planning Abuser intervention program
The Treehouse Child Assessment Center	Anyone under the age of 18 who is the victim of physical or sexual abuse, neglect	Assessment Therapy Advocacy



House of Ruth Clinical Services	Any victim of inter-partner violence and any child affected	Counseling services
Safe Start	Children between 8 and 18 affected by inter-partner violence	Play therapy Group therapy Individual therapy
Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DOCR)	Victims of crime whose perpetrators are currently in pre-trial programs, detention services and pre-release phases of corrections/rehabilitative services	Victim notification – pre-trial VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) GPS for offenders in PRRS with a known victim
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE)	Victims of sexual assault, child victims of physical and sexual assault, human trafficking, domestic violence, elder abuse	Comprehensive medical screening Sexual Assault/rape/DV forensic exams Pregnancy and STI testing and Prophylactic medication Collection forensic evidence Expert testimony
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)	Survivors, both children and adult, of sexual assault and/or abuse, Statewide	Prevention training Public policy and awareness Legal services



STRENGTHS

The twelve programs explored through VSAB interviews collectively serve tens of thousands of people each year. Some key strengths identified within programs and the community includes:

- Competent, experienced, and dedicated staff.
- Improved community awareness of abuse and violence.
- County emphasis on systems change, or addressing the “bigger picture” of violence in our community.
- Integration of services at the Family Justice Center for DV victims.
- Coordination between the County Police, the Office of the State’s Attorney, VASAP, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and other agencies.
- Breadth of services, e.g., counseling for family members of homicide victims and tutoring for survivors of domestic violence.
- Effective fundraising strategies.
- Responsiveness to victims.
- Professionalism among staff members.

NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

The majority of the programs are struggling to meet the needs of a higher volume and increasingly diverse population of victims. Furthermore, the increase of Internet crimes has presented new challenges for law enforcement, victim service providers, and prosecutors. Better community awareness of local resources is to be celebrated, but it has also presented a challenge for programs because they must serve a larger number of victims with funding sources that can be flat, declining, or unstable. Interviewees identified the following major program needs: Additional personnel and volunteers, such as trilingual therapists (including those fluent in American Sign Language), more prosecutors, staff to fill evening and weekend hours, forensic medical care providers, more victim advocates to provide linkage to other available County services, and volunteer advocates.

- Court advocacy, both through trained victim advocates and specialized attorneys and volunteer advocates for victims of violence.
- Transportation for adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence and general crimes.
- Additional and stable funding sources, particularly to address losses due to the economic and grant cuts. Integrated electronic systems to improve communications between service providers and criminal justice system.
- Better collaboration and coordination across programs serving victims of domestic violence.
- Enhanced community outreach and awareness.



Table 2: Areas of Need in Local Victim Services Organizations

Agency/Organization	RESOURCES			ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT		
	Materials Supplies Office Space	Funding/Fundraising	Additional and Specialized Personnel	Policy	Community Outreach	Advocacy to County and State Gov't
Family Justice Center			X		X	
Betty Ann Krahnke Center Shelter	X	X	X		X	X
Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program		X	X	X		X
State's Attorney's Office/ State's Attorney's Victim Assistance Unit		X	X		X	
MCPD Victim Assistance Unit	X	X	X		X	X
Abused Persons Program		X	X		X	X
The Treehouse Child Assessment Center	X	X	X		X	
House of Ruth Clinical Services					X	
Safe Start	X	X	X		X	X
Department of Correction & Rehabilitation (DOCR)	X					
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE)	X	X			X	
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)	X					
Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)			X		X	



VSAB is grateful to the representatives of these organizations for offering their time in participating in interviews. Interviewees' ideas and input are valuable to VSAB as the Board identifies its priorities for 2014 and beyond.

- Daryl Leach Director - Family Justice Center
- Vivian Levi, Director - Betty Ann Krahnke Center
- Nadja Cabello, Director and staff- Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program and Abused Persons Program
- Stefan LoBuglio, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
- Rebecca Marcolini, Victim Witness Coordinator, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office
- Ellen Alexander, Director -MCPD Victim Assistance Unit
- Asjoure Brown - House of Ruth Counseling Services
- Mindy Thiel - Safe Start
- Heidi Bresee - SANE Program
- Tom Grazio - Tree House
- Soo Jin Kim, MSW, Domestic Violence Coordinator at Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington
- Lisae Jordan – SALI (Sexual Assault Legal Institute)



ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS & TRAININGS

- Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee
- HHS Quarterly Board meetings
- County Executive Meetings with Boards and Commissions
- Council HHS Committee Hearings with Boards and Commissions
- HHS Director, County Budget Presentation
- Family Justice Center

Guest Speakers 2014-2015

Through out the period from January 2014 through July 2015, various victim services experts made insightful educational presentations to the Board.

➤ October 2014 - VASAP and APP Court and Outreach volunteers provided a presentation that focused on the role of VASAP outreach volunteers for rape crisis, and VASAP and APP victim assistants in the County's district courts.

➤ December 2014 - Kathy Dumais, District 15 Maryland State Assembly gave an update on the 2015 legislative session and overview of legislative process.

➤ January 2015 - Mario Wawrzusin (Administrator, Assessment and Adult Protective Services and Case management, HHS).

➤ March 2015 – Jennifer Schiller, Chief Program Officer, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

➤ April 2015 - Soo Jin Kim, MSW, Domestic Violence Coordinator at Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington.

Others

- Loretta Garcia, HATE Violence Committee, Human Rights Commission.
- Richard Hoffman Liaison with Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center.
- Bunnie Gordon, Executive Director, Victims in Need (VIN).



VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD



Administrative Support

Rafiah H. Prince and Ellen Wachter provided support for the Board.

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