D15A0516
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Agency Responses to DLS Analysis and Recommendations
FY2016 Governor's Allowance

House Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
February 12, 2015

Senate Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee
February 19, 2015

Recommended Actions:

1. **Reduce the State Aid for Police Protection formula-funded appropriation by $25.6 million, or 36%.**

   Strike the State Aid for Police Protection budget bill language

   We disagree. By reducing the funds, police operations and local community priorities may be adversely affected. The resources that are available to reduce violent crime; identify and prosecute gun offenders and those who traffic in illegal firearms; identify and prosecute gang members; serve arrest warrants and a variety of other enforcement activities would be reduced. SAPP is also used by local law enforcement agencies for salaries, overtime, fringe benefits, vehicle maintenance, repair & fuel) and overhead costs (rent and insurance) allocated to local law enforcement initiatives. A reduction in funding may reduce the number of police officers in Maryland, and that reduction may have a corresponding impact on our ability to keep crime in Maryland at historic lows.

   Add language directing the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management to reduce the State Aid for Police Protection allocation on a proportional basis.

   We agree that any reduction can be allocated on a proportional basis.

2. **Add budget bill language phasing out funding to State's Attorney Offices.**

   We disagree. The Maryland General Assembly provided funding for the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office as an appropriation in GOCCP's budget. GOCCP believes that

continued funding for state's attorneys' offices is vitally important if Maryland is to continue reducing crime and maintain it at current historic lows.

Funding for state's attorneys' offices is especially important in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Those two jurisdictions combined account for 47.8% of the state's overall violent crime, 37.9% of the state's property crime and 39.4% of the state's total crime.

Both jurisdictions rely heavily on state funding to support the prosecution of some of the state's most violent repeat offenders.

3. Delete new funding for Survivors of Homicide grant.

We disagree. House Bill 355 became law on April 14, 2014. This law establishes a grant program within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to address the specific needs of family members and other survivors of homicide victims whose lives have been traumatized by these violent acts.

CICB ***compensates*** crime victims ***in general***, but the rules regarding compensation are different than the purposes contemplated with respect to this $500,000. Moreover, this grant program would be specific to the survivors of homicide whereas CICB compensation is not limited to that one victim category.

CICB is the payer of last resort for ***all crime victims***, but only pays for a limited number of expenses for victims and their representatives who have no other means to pay. Whereas CICB solely provides compensation, the $500,000 for the Survivors of Homicide Grant program would be used to provide much needed services for primary and secondary victims on a broader scale. Grants from this $500,000 could be used for, but not limited to, the following:

- Training for first responders in how to effectively deal with victims' relatives
- Support for those who have been traumatized by witnessing homicides
- Death notification experts to assist law enforcement
- Family and community grief counselors
- Forensic interview protocols for witnesses, especially child witnesses

Withholding this funding from the survivors of homicide victims because of the existence of CICB is tantamount to saying that we can eliminate funding for victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault because CICB may provide compensation for some people in those categories of crime victims.

Eliminating this $500,000 from the survivors of homicide victims would prevent us from filling a much needed gap in victim services. In 2013 GOCCP administered 2 surveys on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Victim

Services. The surveys asked respondents to provide feedback on gaps in services for survivors of homicide. A total of 72 agencies responded to the surveys. The respondents said that additional services are needed in the following areas:

- Crisis intervention services
- Grief support groups specific to the families and relatives of homicide victims
- Legal support for survivors
- Housing and medical assistance
- Funding to increase staffing at non-profit organizations that serve this specific victim group
- Training for police, prosecutors and community and faith based groups that deal with survivors of homicide victims

In summary, almost 80% of the survey respondents said that there is a lack of support services in this critical area. Cutting this funding would prevent GOCCP from establishing grant programs to fill this void.

Issues

1. **GOCCP should comment on how the increase of federal grant funding will be allocated, including new programs created and any expansion of current projects.**

COMMUNITY-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM (CBVP): $1,500,000

The CBVP program is the result of a ***one- time competitive award*** received by GOCCP from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The funding covers a three year period and is being used to implement a public health violence reduction model in Prince George's County and Baltimore City. Teams of outreach workers collaborate with law enforcement and the local health departments to build relationships with those individuals most likely to engage in gun violence. If a shooting or homicide does occur, the outreach workers act to defuse retaliation and further violence. This should not be regarded as a permanent increase in GOCCP's federal grant funds.

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (PSNM): PSNM is a federal grant program for the United States Attorney's Office (USAO). Under this grant program, each USAO applying for funding must designate a local fiscal agent. GOCCP has agreed to be the fiscal agent for the USAO for Maryland. The use of the funding is determined by the USAO, not GOCCP. This is not an increase in federal funding that is available to GOCCP for discretionary use.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA): VOCA funding received by GOCCP from the federal Office of Victims of crime increased from $7,547,653 in 2010 to

$8,438,961 in 2014. GOCCP has allocated this modest increase consistent with existing goals and objectives. The federal priority areas set forth for VOCA are domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and underserved populations to include minorities and victims who reside in rural areas. GOCCP has, and will continue, allocating funds consistent with those federal program priorities, and will also strive to ensure that funding is coordinated to achieve maximum effectiveness.

BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (BJAG): There has been no increase in GOCCP's BJAG funding. Funding awarded to GOCCP by the federal Department of Justice has consistently decreased from 2010 to 2014. GOCCP's BJAG formula allocation was $6,052,365 in 2010 and dropped to $3,817,597 in 2014.

2. **GOCCP should comment on Maryland's current status of compliance with PREA, the biggest barriers that the State faces in becoming fully compliant, and any costs that would be associated with maintaining compliance in the future.**

GOCCP is impacted by the state's current non-compliance with PREA in that certain federal grant programs administered by GOCCP are reduced as a result of the state's non-compliance. The costs to GOCCP associated with future non-compliance would be further cuts in grant funds.

While GOCCP's grant funds are affected by PREA compliance, DPSCS and DJS are the state agencies responsible for ensuring that PREA is complied with at facilities under the state's operational control. The following information regarding Maryland's current status of compliance with PREA, to include significant barriers to compliance, was provided by DPSCS and DJS.

DPSCS

- PREA audits were conducted at six facilities in 2014. All facilities were found to be in compliance.
- The remaining facilities will be audited in 2015 and 2016 thereby meeting the PREA requirement that 1/3 of an agency's facilities be audited each year over a three year period.
- DPSCS is in the process of adopting policies consistent with PREA standards. The cost of developing and implementing these required policies is approximately $124,000 per year. DPSCS expects to pay for this with federal grants.
- Additional funding will be needed for staffing, training and any other incidental costs that may arise.

DJS

- CCTV is being installed at selected facilities.

- Staff training is underway.
- PREA audits of seven facilities will begin in March 2015.
- DJS will incur costs associated with the services of a DOJ certified juvenile PREA auditor, but that cost is unknown at this time.
- DJS has established a 24 hour PREA hotline to afford juveniles an avenue for reporting abuse. There will be costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of this hotline, but those recurring costs are unknown at this time.

NOTE: PREA responses were provided by DPSCS and DJS. Although GOCCP administers grant funds that are impacted by PREA, DPSCS and DJS are responsible for operational compliance with PREA. DPSCS and DJS may be able to provide for detailed information.