

**State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)**  
**September 3, 2026**  
**1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Rebecca Seltzer - Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - Maryland AAP Representative  
Erin Pearl OBO Lindsay Carpenter - Maryland State's Attorney Association  
Erica LeMon - Maryland Legal Aid  
Jody Burghardt - JSSA  
Stacey Brown - The Family Tree  
John McGinnis - Maryland Department of Education  
Remonte Greene- Department of Human Services  
Sonia Chessen- Maryland Department of Health  
Derek Getic- Department of Juvenile Services  
Lisa Weah- New Shiloh Baptist Church

**Members Not in Attendance:**

Dr. Ademola (Moses) Oduyebo  
Kelly Jascowitz - Maryland State Police  
Senator Anthony Muse - Maryland State Senate  
Karla Smith - Maryland Courts  
Delegate Susan McComas - House of Delegates

**Guests:**

[Vanessa Milio](#)- Independent Consult working with 211 on EFC  
Kyla Pendleton- Maryland Family Network  
[Wendy Lane](#)-American Academy of Pediatrics  
Sydni Jenkins - GOCCP  
[Diana Philip](#)- Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children  
Crystal Young - Citizen's Review Board for Children  
[Judith Schagrin](#)  
Mimi Aledo-Sandoval - Maryland Family Network  
Jasmine Wilford

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**II. Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence. Presenter: Angelis, Director of Community Engagement at Turnaround, Inc.**

- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) vs. Household Violence:** Clarified that Turnaround primarily focuses on IPV within romantic relationships, whereas broader legal definitions of domestic violence cover any household members (siblings, roommates, parents/children).
- **Impact on Children:**

- Children who witness or hear domestic violence are at higher risk for intergenerational patterns of abuse, peer aggression, and teen dating violence.
- Exposure increases risk but does not guarantee a child will become an abuser or victim.
- **State Legal & Reporting Context:**
  - Co-occurrence: Domestic violence and child maltreatment frequently co-occur, but non-offending caregivers facing IPV are not automatically responsible for child maltreatment caused by the abuser.
  - Maryland Law Nuance: Meeting attendees discussed that while a crime of violence committed in the presence of a child is a crime, child welfare (CPS) definitions and acceptance thresholds for exposure/hearing domestic violence remain a complex, evolving area subject to policy recommendations.

### **III. Workgroup Updates:**

- Essentials for Childhood: Vanessa Milio: Took part in the SCCAN Annual Retreat. Working with MD AAP Foundation to raise funds for the strategic planning process. Continuing to look for sources of funding to maintain the website. A large strategic planning and marketing group has been contacted and may be willing to help.
- Healthcare- Becky Seltzer: Finally received aggregate level data report from Hilltop with MDH and DHS partnership regarding basic health care data for kids in foster care served by Medicaid vs kids not in foster care who are also served by Medicaid. This data is not yet publicly available. The group has also been meeting with people in regards to the Health Passport. The discussion has involved making it accessible to health care providers once it is operational and so that it provides data to the healthcare providers. The group has also met with the person that oversees the 9 MCOs and a Delegate to understand the relationship between the MCOs and ways to improve it.
- CJAC- Sydni Jenkins: Met in person for annual grant review and they should be done within the next week or so. The awards are expected to be released in October. Conversations about the CJAC three year plan have begun.

### **IV. Legislative Priorities**

#### **Early Childhood & Home Visiting:**

- Advocating for state-wide universal home visiting (nurse home visits 2–12 weeks post-birth).
- Childcare Access & Subsidies: Supporting childcare subsidies, addressing "childcare deserts," and stabilizing funding for childcare providers.

#### **Mandated Reporting & Background Checks:**

- Expanding background checks across all youth-serving organizations (e.g., sports leagues, non-school entities).
- Mandating Child Protective Services (CPS) background checks specifically for classroom teachers (which are distinct from standard FBI checks).

#### **Custody Evaluators & Judicial Training:**

- Advocating for mandated, standardized training (trauma-informed care and domestic violence) for court-appointed custody evaluators and family court judges.

#### **Aging-Out Foster Youth Support (HB 915 Reintroduction):**

- Creating a workgroup featuring 15 young adults (ages 18–25) with lived experience in foster care to evaluate barriers around housing, food security, driver's licenses, and health care.

#### **CINA Permanency Standards & Kinship Care:**

- HB 1383 (CINA Standards): Establishing concrete, reviewable standards for "reasonable efforts" toward family reunification, prompt therapeutic referrals, and immediate school enrollment during transitions.
- HB 1272 (Kinship Placement): Requiring that youth input be considered during placement decisions and setting standards for evaluating relative safety and protective capacity.

#### **Hospital Overstays Workgroup (HB 1559):**

- Monitoring implementation through the Governor's Office of Children (GOC), which has established a senior advisor position to coordinate the workgroup.

#### **V. Membership Updates**

- Four vacancies. The Governor's Office of Appointments has been contacted and will not address the vacancies until the end of the summer or early fall.

#### **VII. Partner Updates:**

- None