

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Carr, Richard Katzman, Alycia Post. **Absent:** Susan Ide.
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Jodie Bacon, Maria Gibbs, Anna Harrington, Diane Gagnon, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Amber King, Melinda Meyer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of December 9, 2024, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Maria Gibbs presented Compensation reports for December 2024. This December, a total of 23 regular claims were received compared to 31 the previous December, and a total of 29 sexual assault (SA) claims were received compared to 16 the previous December. Year-to-date, regular claims had decreased by 25.81% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, while SA claims had increased by 81.25%.

The largest compensation expenses for December 2024 were related to Homicide, followed by Aggravated Assault, and Child Sexual Abuse, in that order. Year-to-date, expenses for regular claims were \$32,347 less in the current fiscal year than at the same point in the previous fiscal year. Year-to-date SA expenses had increased and were \$8,308 more than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) reports for December 2024. She was pleased to point out that the RU had hit its collections goal every month so far in the current fiscal year (FY25). In December a total of 87 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number (36) coming from Chittenden County, followed by Rutland County with 12 RJOs. December collections by the RU's Case Managers totaled \$53,178.54. There were no tax offsets received that month. Michelle announced that a new Case Manager had been hired and would start work soon. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through December 2024. She noted that CCVS's revenues had increased compared to the prior fiscal year, but none of the Funds were at 50% of their appropriation targets, which they should be at half-way through the current fiscal year. The low revenues were creating deficits in the Funds. Additionally, costs for personnel and benefits had increased. Carol explained that the federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Compensation funding CCVS receives must be spent by September or will be lost, so CCVS was now paying for compensation claims with those VOCA dollars, to ensure all federal funds are used. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on numerous issues. She was pleased to announce that a new Grants Manager had just been hired, and was coming to C CVS from the state's Department of Education where she also managed grants, making her very familiar with grant processes.

Jenn advised that C CVS staff, along with the Crime Victim Advisory Group, were working with a facilitator on Strategic Planning and had recently finalized new Vision and Mission statements. Training Director Amber King also added comments summarizing that work.

Regarding issues at the statehouse, Jenn advised that the new legislative session had begun and there were many changes to legislative committees and legislation. C CVS has a few legislative priorities including Victims' Rights provisions, Hearsay Rules regarding children, and the reform and expansion of the Department of Corrections' Victim Automated Notification System (VANS).

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.
Adjourned at 2:04 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, February 10, 2025

1:30PM

**Virtual by Zoom and in the
conference room at**

60 South Main Street, Waterbury.