

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Ide, Richard Katzman, Susie Carr. **Absent:** Alycia Post. **Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Carol Morgan.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM with the board members attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of February 14, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for February 2022. A total of 24 regular claims were received this February, compared to 38 received in February 2021. However, the year-to-date number of regular claims received was 9.62% higher than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. The number of sexual assault (SA) claims received in February 2022 was 16, compared to 11 SA claims received in February 2021. Year-to-date, SA claims were 2.26% higher than in the prior fiscal year.

Year-to-date, many expense categories showed a decrease compared to the same point in the prior fiscal year. Expenses related to Aggravated Assault and Homicide were both lower; however expenses related to arson and sexual assault were significantly higher in the current fiscal year. Total year-to-date expenses for regular compensation were \$45K lower, while total expenses for SA claims were higher by \$27K. Combining both types of claims, the overall total year-to-date expenses were \$17K less than at the same point in the previous fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for February 2022. Statewide, 30 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received by the RU this February. Case Managers had collected \$43K, which was a bit short of the month's goal. However, February was a very good month for tax offsets, with \$63K collected via tax offsets. Michelle speculated that people were filing their taxes earlier this year. She added that although some good payments were coming in, the number of RJOs being issued by the courts was still less than before the pandemic and might not be enough to sustain increased payments. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through February 2022. There was some good news, with all C CVS special funds showing increased revenues for February. Despite that, overall revenues were still below projections and funding for the State's Attorneys' Victim Advocates remained a

challenge. Funding was expected soon from the approved budget adjustment for FY22, and CCVS was awaiting guidance from the legislative committees involved. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on a variety of topics. Work was continuing on reform efforts by the House Judiciary and other legislative committees, aimed at finding other ways to fund CCVS without relying on declining fines and fees. The House Judiciary Committee had given unanimous support for the State's Attorneys' Victim Advocate program to remain under CCVS. Regarding expungement of records, the legislature was moving toward sealing records instead, so that limited access would remain to allow the Victims Compensation Program and Restitution Unit to access needed information. But sealed records would not prevent an offender from getting a driver's license, etc. Regarding the sale of offender assets, Jenn advised that the Restitution Unit would now have priority in receiving related funds. The CCVS podcast, The Mend, was returning with new episodes, and Jenn advised that CCVS would be reestablishing the Victim/Survivor of Crime Council that had existed in previous years, to obtain victim input and participation in a variety of issues. National Crime Victim Rights Week would be observed during the last week of April, with ceremonies on April 29.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
April 18, 2022
1:30 PM**

**In the conference room
At 60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**