

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2025**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Carr, Susan Ide, Richard Katzman, Alycia Post.

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Anna Harrington, Diane Gagnon, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Maria Gibbs

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of April 7, 2025, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Anna Harrington presented Compensation reports for April 2025. A total of 33 regular claims were received this April, compared to 25 the previous April, and a total of 19 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 14 the previous April. Year-to-date, regular claims had decreased by 11.31% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, while SA claims had increased by 1.09%. The largest compensation expenses for April 2025 were related to Domestic Assault and Aggravated Assault, which were each a little over \$8,000; followed by Homicide at a little over \$4,000. On the positive side, Homicide expenses were half of what they'd been at the same point in the previous fiscal year. Overall, year-to-date expenses for regular claims were \$67,764 less in the current fiscal year than at the same point in the previous fiscal year, and year-to-date SA expenses were \$6,069 less. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) reports for April 2025. The RU exceeded its collections goal for April by \$2,569 and had now surpassed their yearly collections goal for FY25 by \$27,327. A total of 103 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number (24) coming from Rutland County, followed by Chittenden County with 16 RJOs. Michelle noted that lately more RJOs had been coming in from Rutland County than in the past, and recently more RJOs were related to business victims than individual victims, reflecting increased cases of retail theft. April collections by the RU's Case Managers totaled \$50,569 and another \$45,855 came in via tax offsets. Michelle commented that collections tend to be higher at this time of year due to tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through April 2025. All three C CVS special funds (Victims Compensation Fund, Restitution Fund, and the DV/SV Fund) showed increased revenues in April, but with the fiscal year ending on June 30, it seemed unlikely that any of the funds would meet their budgeted appropriations for FY25. Carol noted that although the fund balances have been decreasing for both the Victims Compensation Fund and the Restitution Fund, the Victims Compensation Fund should see less of an impact since C CVS was currently using federal funds to support crime victim payments. The use of federal funds reduces the burden on the Victims Compensation Fund, and the federal funds must be used by the end of September, or will be lost. C CVS has very little control over the revenues it receives, so it's a juggling game

between using state vs federal funds. Carol noted that revenues often increase a lot in May and June, at the end of the fiscal year, so we'll see what happens. So far, she was projecting a deficit for all.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann announced that C CVS staff member Christine Morrison had moved departments and been promoted to Manager of the Victims Compensation Program, where she had previously worked for many years. Knowledge that Christine gained while working in the C CVS Grants department would be helpful in her new role. Jenn advised that National Crime Victim Rights week went very well, with assistance by members of C CVS's Crime Victim Advisory Group: Taylor Russell provided a great introduction to keynote speaker Ashley Bendickson, and Anna Nasset had facilitated a public Listening Forum in Montpelier that featured members of the Advisory Group. The late Senator Richard Sears was also honored at the NCVRW celebration.

Jenn advised that C CVS's Strategic Plan was almost complete and would be presented to the Board at the June board meeting. C CVS Grants Department staff would be presenting a grants training on May 6th to staff of Vermont's Child Advocacy Centers; followed by a webinar for all C CVS's sub-grantees on May 21.

Regarding legislative and budgetary issues, Jenn advised that C CVS was faring well policy-wise at the Statehouse, but not well financially. The 2026 fiscal year (FY26) has been level-funded, but in fiscal year 2027 C CVS might have to make some difficult choices. Jennifer Poehlmann and Carol Brochu had spoken to the House Appropriations Committee and made it clear that C CVS would have to close if its federal funding was much reduced. Jenn noted that C CVS is the only Vermont state agency (aside from the military) that receives more than half its funding from federal dollars, and any halts in federal funding would impact C CVS badly.

REVIEW 2025 BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board rescheduled the August and December 2025 meeting dates to better allow C CVS staff to access the prior month's data needed for their department reports. The new dates are: August 11, 2025 and December 8, 2025. The Board also agreed to hold C CVS's Annual Public Meeting on October 6, 2025.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.
Adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:
Monday,
June 9, 2025 at 1:30 PM
Virtual by Zoom and in the conference
room at 60 South Main St, Waterbury.