

**Center for Crime Victim Services  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2022**

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

**Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Carol Brochu.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM with all board members attending via Zoom.

### **REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of April 18, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

### **COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT**

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for April 2022. A total of 41 regular claims were received this month, compared to 30 in April of the previous year. The Year-to-Date number of regular claims received was 335 for the current fiscal year, compared to 290 for the same point in the prior fiscal year. The number of sexual assault (SA) claims received this April was 21, compared to 15 SA claims received the previous April. Year-to-date, 191 SA claims were received, compared to 159 at the same point in the prior fiscal year.

Year-to-Date expenses for regular claims were roughly \$50K less than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. However, Year-to-Date expenses for SA claims were \$38.5K higher. Combining both types of claims, total Year-to-Date compensation expenses were almost \$12K 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 April 2022. Statewide, 24 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received by the RU this month, with the majority coming from Windham and Windsor Counties. Case Managers had collected \$43K, and close to another \$55K was collected via tax offsets. In April the RU transferred a little over \$4K to the state's Unclaimed Property office. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

In Carol Brochu's absence, the board reviewed her written summary for the Financial Report through April 2022, which follows: With two months remaining in the current fiscal year, the fund balances were doing better than anticipated. As of April 30, 2022, the only fund in the red was the DV/SV fund, which will actually show as a positive balance with the deposit into this fund that has not yet been added. CCVS continues to keep Personal and Operating costs within the revenues that have been received year-to-date. Revenues declined in April, yet seemed to be within the projected total revenues for this fiscal year.

The Restitution Unit paid out slightly more than last month and the Compensation Program paid out \$2K less than last month. Compensation claims are now being paid with federal VOCA Compensation funds, as the current amount that was budgeted has been spent as intended. Carol Brochu anticipated increased grant-related payments to show up in May's board report (to be presented in June), which will give an idea of how the grant funds will be for fiscal 2022 year-end, since no other grant-related payments are usually issued during the month of June. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

## **CENTER UPDATE**

Jennifer Poehlmann advised the board on legislative efforts. She regretfully informed them that the legislature had chosen to move funding for the State's Attorneys' Victim Advocates (SAVAs) to the custody of the State's Attorneys' offices where the advocates are housed. CCVS and other stakeholders remained concerned that this might result in future cuts to Victim Advocate (VA) positions. CCVS would like the related statute language revised so that the State's Attorneys' offices are made responsible to protect VA positions.

Other updates included reforms to juvenile justice legislation that would allow victims of under-age offenders to receive more information on such cases; new legislation that allows the Victims Compensation Program to pay temporary living expenses to domestic partners, which is needed in homicide cases; and statutory changes that propose a more streamlined approach to sealing records in certain cases, a fast-track to expungement of criminal records, with exceptions allowing criminal justice offices to access records, as well as access by the Restitution Unit and the Victims Compensation Program to allow them to complete their work on behalf of the victims.

Jennifer advised that this year the Vermont Victims Assistance Academy was returning in a virtual format, to be held in late May and early June. The Center is also hosting a training entitled "Victims' Rights: Our Collective Responsibility," with staff from the National Crime Victims' Legal Institute, including national expert Meg Garvin, presenting a four-hour session on ways to give "teeth" to victims' rights.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:03 PM.

### **Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:**

**Monday,  
June 6, 2022  
1:30 PM**

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