

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022**

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

Absent: Susan Ide. **Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Maria Gibbs, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer, Julie Frailey.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM, with Bob Paolini and Richard Katzman present, and two other board members attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of October 17, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Abby Gladstone-Strobel presented Compensation reports for October and November 2022. In October, 39 regular claims and 15 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, which was a decrease compared to October 2021 for both types. In November, the number of regular claims was 35, exactly the same as in November 2021, while 18 SA claims were received, compared to 21 the previous November. Year-to-date, regular claims had increased by 15.61% compared to the same point in the prior fiscal year; while the number of SA claims had decreased by 25.23%. Looking at year-to-date expenses, claims related to homicide were the highest expense and were \$41K higher than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. Abby noted that one homicide can result in claims by numerous survivors, and depending on related travel, these expenses can vary quite a bit. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented Restitution Unit (RU) reports for October and November 2022. In October, a total of 69 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received, which was a significant increase compared to recent months; and collections for October were just \$271 shy of the month's goal. In November, 53 RJOs were received, and collections exceeded the month's goal by \$21.6K. A large payment by an offender's estate brought year-to-date collections up to their highest level since Fiscal Year 2019. Michelle noted that the number of victims being paid by the RU was increasing again, but still less than pre-pandemic. She noted that court diversion has also contributed to a decline in the number of victims being paid by the RU.

Michelle advised the board on the RU's process whereby offenders can appeal tax offsets. She asked for guidance on responding to the current year's appeals. Bob Paolini offered to work with RU staff on the appeals process, and the board agreed unanimously with that approach. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through November 2022. She noted that CCVS revenues had continued to decline, but since CCVS expenses have also been reduced, the cash

balances for the current fiscal year (FY23) were actually in better shape than a few years ago. She explained that the 2023 Appropriation is the funding that CCVS hopes to receive for FY23, but that revenue is not guaranteed. Carol Morgan added that although every state's Compensation Program is funded differently, other states that rely on fines and fees were also struggling with declining revenues. Carol Brochu explained that CCVS was currently using General Fund dollars to pay for Compensation claims, and later in the year will switch to using regular Special Funds, both of which result in federal reimbursement of 75%. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the board on numerous topics. She and Carol Brochu were working with the state administration on the budget for the next fiscal year (FY24). CCVS was looking to shift funding for several state positions to other sources, rather than CCVS which has funded the positions for years despite having little or no oversight of them. Jenn was happy to announce that three new staff had been hired to fill vacant CCVS positions in the Compensation Program and Training Dept. The second session of this year's Vermont Victims Assistance Academy was scheduled for the end of January, and a new Victim/Survivor Advisory Group was being created to help with legislative issues and ensure that CCVS materials are victim-centered and victim-informed. Jenn noted that other state organizations have expressed interest in working with and including CCVS for mutual awareness and assistance.

SCHEDULE 2023 MEETING DATES

The Board agreed on the following meeting dates for 2023. All are Mondays. All start at 1:30 PM.

Jan. 9, 2023
Feb. 13
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 12
July 17
August 21
September 18
October 16
December 11, 2023 (no meeting in November)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Bob Paolini and seconded by Richard Katzman to go into Executive Session at 3:20 with Julie Frailey and Jennifer Poehlmann to discuss a personnel matter. Motion was made and seconded to conclude Executive Session at 3:34 PM with no action taken.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:
Monday, January 9, 2023 - 1:30 PM
In the conference room
At 60 South Main Street, Waterbury.