

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

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

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

Also Present: Kate Brayton & Amy Farr, Vermont State Police Victim Services

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM with the board members attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of January 24, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

INTRODUCTION TO VT STATE POLICE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

Kate Brayton, Victim Services Director at the Vermont State Police (VSP) and Amy Farr, Victim Services Specialist at the VSP were introduced to the C CVS Board. Due to the unique nature of the cases and victims that VSP works with, issues were discussed involving probable cause sign-offs by law enforcement and what the Compensation Program requires for documenting victims' injuries and details of what happened to a victim. All agreed that when more details are needed by the Compensation Program, the VSP Victim Services staff can provide the additional information in writing, to go along with the probable cause statement by law enforcement.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for January 2022. A total of 34 regular claims were received this January, compared to the 20 regular claims received in January 2021. The number of sexual assault (SA) claims received this January was 15, compared to 26 SA claims received in January 2021. Looking at year-to-date figures, both types of claims showed an overall increase compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, with regular claims up by 16.42% and SA claims up by 11.48%. Despite the increase in claims, year-to-date expenses for regular claims were about \$70K less than in the same period of the previous fiscal year, while expenses for SA claims were up by \$36K compared to the previous fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for January 2022. Statewide, 51 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received by the RU this January. Case Managers collected almost \$46K in January, and another \$7K in tax offsets was received. The RU was working with the Department of Labor to get information on offender earnings, which should result in the ability for the RU to garnish wages. Michelle Pelletier and Jennifer Poehlmann had met with probate judges and were designing forms and processes, so that in the event of a victim's death, restitution could be sent

to the victim's beneficiary rather than to the state's Unclaimed Property office. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through January 2022. As mentioned in prior meetings, CCVS revenues continue to decline and the Victims Compensation Fund balance was a concern. As soon as CCVS receives the one-time general fund appropriation, that will be used to fund compensation payments, which will help. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on a variety of topics, including funding for the State's Attorneys' Victim Advocate program, which CCVS has been stewards of for thirty years. CCVS wants to maintain and support this program, but funding it has been an ongoing challenge. Jenn advised that the House Appropriations Committee and the House Judiciary were both supportive and looking for ways to help. Jenn was also in conversation with stakeholders such as Disability Rights regarding how to support victims who don't report crimes to law enforcement, for whatever reason. CCVS will be working with the Crime Research Group on this issue, and will also serve on the Racial Justice Advisory Council.

DISCUSSION RE: SETTING THE DATE FOR CCVS ANNUAL MEETING

Staff advised the Board on logistical issues related to the annual public meeting, and the board agreed that this year's Annual Meeting will be held in September 2022, exact date still to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
March 14, 2022
1:30 PM**

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