

Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2025

Board Members Present: Susan Ide, Susan Carr, Richard Katzman. **Absent:** Bob Paolini, Alycia Post.
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Jodie Bacon, Maria Gibbs, Anna Harrington, Diane Gagnon, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Megan Kinlock, Melinda Meyer, and Victim Advocate Shea Kennedy.

The meeting was called to order at 1:42 PM with Susan Ide chairing the meeting.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of March 10, 2025, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Anna Harrington presented Compensation reports for March 2025. A total of 36 regular claims were received this March, compared to 46 the previous March, and a total of 17 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 18 the previous March. Year-to-date, regular claims had decreased by 14.56% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, while SA claims had decreased by 1.19%. The largest compensation expenses for March 2025 were related to Domestic Assault and Aggravated Assault, in that order. Overall, year-to-date expenses for regular claims were \$60,617K less in the current fiscal year than at the same point in the previous fiscal year, and year-to-date SA expenses were \$2,394K less. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) reports for March 2025. The RU had exceeded its collections goal for March by \$1,200 and would likely meet their yearly collection goal for FY25 within the next month or two. In March, a total of 120 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number (31) coming from Chittenden County, followed by Windham County with 24 RJOs and Rutland County with 19 RJOs. March collections by the RU's Case Managers totaled \$49,200 and another \$55,283 came in via tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through March 2025. There were three months remaining in the current fiscal year (FY25). Year-to-Date, the balance in the Victim Compensation Fund had decreased by over \$177K in FY25. There had been a noticeable decrease in revenues into the Compensation Special Fund compared to the previous March, primarily because in March 2024 the courts had deposited several months' worth of deposits related to C CVS's increased surcharge in FY24. Carol noted that the projected deficit for FY25 had decreased some, due to C CVS using federal funds to support Victim Compensation claims, rather than using state funds. If revenues continued to be what they had been for the past two months, the outcome for the Victims Compensation Fund might be better than the currently projected

\$450K deficit for FY25.

Regarding the Restitution Fund, March was one of their highest revenue months for FY25, however the balance was still nearly \$30K less than last fiscal year at the same time. Revenues into the Restitution Fund were down \$51K from last year at the same time. Year-to-Date, that fund balance had decreased over \$357K. The Restitution Fund's current projections showed a possible \$169K deficit at the end of FY25.

Carol noted that the DV/SV fund was still projecting a deficit of \$117K, however its revenues in FY25 were above those of the prior fiscal year by \$88K. The DV/SV Fund balance had increased \$90K, however grant payments for the period of January-March would be paid-out in April, which would decrease the fund balance

DISCUSS RE: EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL BOARD MEMBER POSITION

Board Member Richard Katzman, MD, raised the question of whether the position he currently holds on CCVS's Board of Directors could be filled by a medical professional who is well qualified, but not an M.D. He suggested that a number of licensed medical professionals such as a Primary Care Medical Clinician, a Nurse Practitioner, Physician's Assistant, Doctor of Osteopathy, etc. could potentially fill the medical professional seat on the Board. Jennifer Poehlmann explained that the current statute governing CCVS's board of directors does require a board member with MD credentials; however she noted that there was a bill coming up soon, in which CCVS could propose language to revise the statute definition, as long as it was ready for May 2025. Richard Katzman offered to assist with drafting proposed language.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on several issues. She noted that this was National Crime Victim Rights week and CCVS would be hosting several events, including a public Listening Forum in Montpelier that would feature two members of CCVS's Crime Victim Advisory Group. She added that the late Senator Richard Sears who'd been a tireless ally of crime victims would be honored by CCVS on Friday, April 11, at the NCVRW celebration at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Regarding legislative issues, Jenn had been shining a spotlight in the legislature regarding problems with the current Victim Notification system, and she felt confident that changes would be made. She noted that several Vermont news outlets had picked up on the topic with positive press.

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

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, May 5, 2025

1:30PM

**Virtual by Zoom and in the
conference room at
60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**