

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2023**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of April 17, 2023, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Abby Gladstone-Strobel presented Compensation reports for April 2023. A total of 37 regular claims were received this April, compared to 41 the previous April. A total of 20 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 21 the previous April. Comparing the current fiscal year (FY23) to the previous fiscal year (FY22), regular claims had increased 10.75% year-to-date, compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year; while year-to-date SA claims had decreased by 18.85%. In April 2023 claims related to Domestic Assault generated the highest expenses, which has historically been the case. The second highest compensation expense was for Homicide claims, which included large increases in payments for funeral services, travel, and lost wages, compared to the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) report for April 2023. The RU's Case Managers brought in almost \$43K and more than \$33K came in via tax offsets. A total of 47 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state; with the largest number (10) coming from Washington County. Michelle advised that Year-to-Date FY'23 collections were \$12K above the year's goal, due to some large payments. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through April 2023. With two months remaining in the current fiscal year (FY23) cash funds balances were relatively healthy, although overall revenues were a little below what they were at the same point last fiscal year. The Compensation Fund balance showed an increase due to the one-time General Fund (GF) appropriation which was used to offset some expenses. Those GF funds must be used by the end of June, but the cash fund balance will carry forward into the new fiscal year (FY24). Carol noted that April's federal fund balance showed as negative only because she hadn't yet drawn down C CVS's federal funds. The new federal fund balance will appear in May's data. C CVS was continuing to use state funded dollars to pay victim compensation claims, but would start using federal funds for that soon. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann provided updates on several topics and legislative efforts. The Center held its annual CVRW event on April 28th at the Capital Plaza in Montpelier. Over 70 people attended the event, and the feedback was extremely positive. The Center also hosted its third session of the Vermont Victims Assistance Academy, which also was received very well. Currently, CCVS is exploring whether to offer another round of the basic Academy and/or to offer shorter but more advanced sessions.

The Center is also planning to resume its “All-Advocate Conference,” probably in early Winter of 2023, and is in the process of planning a retreat for our staff and also updating our strategic plan. The Advisory Group is ready to go and will begin their orientation at a time to be determined, most likely in June of this year. We also hope to bring a couple of interns on board and are reaching out to neighboring colleges.

The Legislative Session wrapped up, and it was both hectic and very successful. Jenn will offer a wrap-up and overview for staff once the anticipated veto session has occurred and will share her written wrap-up with the Board. The “off-session” will be a very busy one as well, with many issues remaining on the front burner, and the Center also securing a spot on three brand new task forces that will focus on important issues impacting crime victims. House Judiciary wants to kick off January with a focus on victims’ rights and enforcement.

The Center’s work on the budget for FY24 was very successful – we got everything we asked for and a bit more. The surcharge that provides funding for the Victim Compensation Special Fund and DV/SV Fund under 13 VSA 7282 will now reflect an increase to both those funds, as the \$7.25 that used to be deposited into the general fund will be “split” between those two funds. Both victim advocate positions within the Vermont State Police will now be funded with general fund dollars, as will the DV Trainer housed within the Vermont Criminal Justice Council. CCVS secured an increase of over 3% to our GF base, and there was a very significant increase to the marriage license fee and the portion of that which goes to support the DV/SV Fund.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.
Adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
June 12, 2023
1:30 PM**

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