

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2023**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Ide, Susan Carr, Alycia Post.

Absent: Richard Katzman. **Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer, Gene Nelson.

Absent: Maria Gibbs.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Abby Gladstone-Strobel presented Compensation reports for June and July 2023. In June 2023 a total of 42 regular claims were received, compared to 33 the previous June. A total of 23 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 13 the previous June. With June marking the end of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), year-to-date regular claims had increased by 13.66% in FY23 compared to the previous fiscal year (FY22). Although June 2023 produced more SA claims than the previous June, the year-to-date sexual assault claims for FY23 had decreased by 8.33% compared to the previous fiscal year. Total yearly expenses for regular claims were over \$142K higher in FY23 than in FY22, while SA expenses had decreased almost \$14.5K. Abby noted that FY23 showed a dramatic increase in expenses related to Domestic Assault and Homicide claims.

July 2023 marked the start of new fiscal year (FY24). This July, a total of 28 regular claims were received, compared to 33 the previous July; and there were 15 SA claims compared to 9 the previous July. Expenses for regular claims about \$11K less in July 2023 than in the previous July. SA expenses were about \$4K higher than the previous July. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) reports for June and July 2023. In June, a total of 64 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number coming from Lamoille County. In July a total of 53 RJOs were received, with the most (24 RJOs) coming from Chittenden County, the traditional leader; indicating that their processing was returning to pre-pandemic levels. In July, the RU's Case Managers brought in \$42.5K and tax offsets came in at just below \$30K. Michelle noted that there were a few RJOs where the judge ordered immediate payment by the offender. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Reports for June and July 2023. June marked the end of fiscal year 2023 (FY23), and revenues into CCVS's three special funds were all below the projected amounts. Only four months of FY'23 showed higher revenue than in the previous fiscal year. Despite the decline, Carol noted that the cash balances in all funds were positive, compared to three years ago when they were all in the red. The one-time General Fund (GF) appropriation had helped preserve the Compensation Special Fund, and since the GF is state dollars, using that still qualifies CCVS for federal reimbursement of 75%. At one month into the new fiscal year (FY24), Carol was hopeful that revenues would improve, with the recent increase in the surcharge that CCVS receives from marriage licenses and other fees. July's revenues were indeed high, although Carol explained that tends to be a quarterly "high" due to processing. Similarly, she explained that expenses for the DV/SV Fund are all for sub-grantee organizations, which are paid quarterly, so some months those expenses will look low.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the board on a variety of issues and legislative efforts, and would be sending the board an in-depth summary of legislative progress. She and other CCVS staff were serving on several committees and workgroups including one regarding the intersection between criminal justice and mental health. She advised that CCVS was hiring someone soon to fill a new part-time administrative position in the Victims Compensation Program. CCVS was working with its landlord and the state's office of Buildings and General Services, making progress toward consolidating office space and moving staff from the current building to new office space at 60 South Main Street in Waterbury. Jenn noted that Compensation Program staff and Grants staff had recently attended the national VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) conference, at which Grants Manager Gene Nelson gave two presentations.

REVIEW OF IDEA (INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY)

Gene Nelson, CCVS Grants Manager, advised the Board that she'd recently attended a national VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) conference at which she presented on CCVS's work regarding President Biden's Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, and requirements for organizations receiving federal funds. She and IDEA consultant Kendra Malone presented to about 60 people and learned that Vermont was the only state requiring its grantees to complete the IDEA process and exercises. Gene advised that there is an organization in Key West, Florida, named "One Human Family" that has a positive model for advancing support for underserved communities, which she shared with attendees at the conference. She and Kendra Malone will continue to meet quarterly to work on IDEA efforts.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.
Adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:
Monday, September 18, 2023
1:30 PM
In the conference room at
60 South Main Street, Waterbury.