

**Center for Crime Victim Services  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2023**

**Board Members Present:** Susan Ide, Susan Carr, Alycia Post, Richard Katzman.

**Absent:** Bob Paolini. **Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Maria Gibbs, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer, Gene Nelson. **Also Present:** Amy Farr, VT State Police Victim Advocate

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 PM.

**REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of August 21, 2023, and unanimously approved them as presented.

**COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT**

Abby Gladstone-Strobel presented Compensation reports for August 2023. This August a total of 45 regular claims were received, compared to 53 the previous August. A total of 32 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 27 the previous August. Expenses for regular claims were about \$3.5K less than in August of 2022. SA expenses were about \$2.4K less than last August. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

**RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT**

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) reports for August 2023. In August, a total of 68 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number coming from Chittenden County (28 RJOs). In August, the RU's Case Managers brought in almost \$52K and tax offsets produced a little over \$6K. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Reports for August 2023. At only two months into the new fiscal year (FY24), it was too soon to know how this fiscal year will proceed, but revenues for August 2023 were slightly down, across the board, compared to August of 2022. Carol Brochu noted that sometimes revenues are not posted as quickly as they ideally should be, so hopefully the downward trend will not continue. C CVS used the one-time General Funds (GF) appropriation to support the Victims Compensation Fund during FY23. In FY24, C CVS received carry-forward of FY23 one-time GF to support the Victim Compensation fund and the decline in VOCA funds.

## **CENTER UPDATE**

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on many legislative tasks that have been delegated for work to various Commissions and Workgroups during the off-session. These include several very critical issues for victims and survivors, including: eliminating cash bail; “Second Look” legislation (enabling convicted offenders to petition the court for a change in their sentence at any time); revision of the stalking definition for purposes of criminal and civil matters; expansion of the “Big 12” for consideration of how youth are initially charged; oversight of DCF’s plan for placement of youth with the closure of Woodside; and, the rights of victims in cases where the defendant is found incompetent or insane. Jennifer was very excited to be working with two victim/survivors to provide a presentation at this year’s annual Department of Mental Health conference in October, relative to victims’ rights and challenges in the mental health system. Over 80 people had registered.

Jenn noted that the C CVS office-move was proceeding, and staff were optimistic that this would provide advantages long hoped for. She thanked Melinda Meyer and Carol Brochu, who were instrumental in coordinating the moving process.

**Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:**  
**Annual Public Meeting**  
**Monday, October 16, 2023**  
**1:30 PM**  
**In the conference room at**  
**60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**