

Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
Dec. 7, 2020

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Richard Katzman, Susan Ide, Jerry O’Neill.

Absent: Margaret Joyal.

Staff Members Present: Chris Fenno, Elaine Boyce, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of October 19, 2020 and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for October 2020 and November 2020. Both months show a decrease in the number of regular claims and sexual assault (SA) claims received, compared to the number received in October and November of 2019. A total of 39 regular claims were received in November 2020, for a 25.00% decrease compared to the 52 regular claims received in November 2019; and only 9 SA claims received in November 2020 compared to 16 SA claims in November 2019. Compared to the same point in the previous fiscal year, the current fiscal year (FY21) showed a year-to-date decrease of 44.09% in regular claims, and a 14.29% decrease in SA claims, through November 2020. Year-to-date expenses for both regular and SA claims were also down compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Regular claim expenses were lower by almost \$44K, and SA expenses were lower by almost \$14K, compared to the same point in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

There were no specific claims for review this month.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for October 2020 and November 2020. She noted that the number of new Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) was still down compared to pre-pandemic numbers, and that equates to lower collections. However, collections in October 2020 were the highest since January 2020, and only fell short of the month’s goal by \$1.5K. State-wide, a total of 24 new RJOs were received in October, and a total of 29 were received in November. Combining October and November, the Case Managers collected roughly \$84K, and about \$7K was received via tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through November 2020. She reported that CCVS revenues continued to be significantly lower than at the same point in the previous fiscal year. Carol noted that CCVS was now funding compensation program claims with federal dollars, rather than state dollars. Although this has reduced the use of state funds, it also means that there will be no federal reimbursement for those compensation expenses. Regarding the budget for the next fiscal year (FY22) Carol advised that she was building in a 12% decrease to the FY22 budget. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno advised on several topics, including issues regarding the Department of Corrections' "Good Time" rule for offenders, and unintended consequences of that rule. She noted that Attorney General TJ Donovan and the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence have both expressed concerns to the committee reviewing the Good Time rule.

Efforts to increase internet bandwidth at CCVS were continuing and Elaine Boyce was working with the state's Agency of Digital Services (ADS), who she praised as very helpful. With assistance from Consolidated Communications, CCVS will ultimately have a virtual private network (VPN). Chris Fenno also remarked on the success of survivor Anna Nasset's podcast series ("The Mend") which had recently been nominated for an award and won third place.

SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION

CCVS Board Chairman Bob Paolini advised that the legislative Sunset Advisory Committee was reviewing all state Boards and Commissions to evaluate whether or not they are still needed or appropriate. Bob advised that the Commission may re-examine the open meeting issue in the new legislative session. The Board discussed possible future separation of CCVS public board meetings and closed meetings. If changes are made, closed meetings would be needed to discuss specific compensation and restitution cases.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:30 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
January 11, 2021
1:30 PM**

Via Zoom Meeting