

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2018**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Margaret Joyal, Susan Ide, Richard Katzman. **Absent:** Jerry O’Neill.
Staff Members Present: Chris Fenno, Mary Kay Hewlett, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Elaine Boyce, Melinda Meyer, Cara Cookson. **Absent:** Carol Brochu, Rachel Atkins.

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

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of February 12, 2018, and approved them as presented.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Cara Cookson updated the Board that bill H.711, relating to employment protections for crime victims, had cleared the House Committee unanimously and went on to clear the House floor unanimously without any inquiry or debate. H.711 just needed to pass the Senate Committee to become law

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for February 2018. Fewer new claims were received in February 2018 than in February 2017, for both regular claims and sexual assault claims. Overall, the number of claims received to-date in the current fiscal year (FY18) showed a small decrease (0.85%) compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year. However, expenses for several categories showed an increase over the prior fiscal year, including Counseling, Funeral, Loss of Wages, Medical Facility, Child Sexual Abuse, and Travel Expenses. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 65265 – This claim was brought to the Board to determine payment of a weighted blanket. The suspect was being charged with Lewd and Lascivious Conduct. The claimant was seeking compensation for counseling, gas reimbursement, security system, and a weighted blanket. After discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor to pay for the weighted blanket, up to \$115.00. The Board also directed that this case should serve as precedent for the Compensation Program to pay for other such blankets in future claims, as long as the need for the weighted blanket is well-documented by an appropriate professional.

Claim 65439 – This claim was brought to the Board to determine whether the Compensation Program should consider payment to a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor whose license was conditioned. The victim was seeking compensation for payment of counseling co-pay, co-insurance or deductible, and loss of wages. After discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor not to pay for services provided by the counselor whose license has conditions.

Claim 65453 – This claim was brought to the Board to determine if the nephew of the deceased victim had suffered emotional harm because of the victim’s death and was eligible for his own claim, and could be considered a victim, as required per statute to be determined on a case-by-case basis. The surviving family member was seeking compensation for counseling, gas reimbursement, funeral expenses, and

crime-scene clean-up. The suspect was being charged with homicide. The Board voted all-in-favor to find the nephew eligible for his own claim and payment.

Claim 57024 – The Board was asked to determine whether the Compensation Program could make an exception to policy and authorize the release of compensation claim documentation, including medical records, so that the documents could be given to the victim’s neurologist. The victim’s personal documents, and those of related providers, had been destroyed by flooding. After discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor to release the requested documentation directly to the victim’s neurologist, as long as the victim signs a written release authorizing the Compensation Program to release the records.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Due to time constraints, Elaine Boyce did not present a full report on the Restitution Unit (RU), but she advised that collections for February were good and had surpassed the month’s goal.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There was no Financial Report this month, due to time constraints.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno updated the Board that she and Carol Brochu had participated in a conference call with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) regarding last year’s audit by the OIG. That call went well. Chris shared with the Board her formal letter to the OIG in response to the OIG’s recommendations. Chris also advised that due to uncertainty over the Center’s federal budget, the hiring of a new grants position has been put on hold.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:15 PM

After the regular business meeting, the Board met with individual staff as part of the annual review of the Center’s Executive Director.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday,

April 9, 2018

1:30 – 3:30 PM

60 South Main St. conference room

Waterbury, VT