

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2018**

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

Absent: Margaret Joyal, Susan Ide.

Staff Members Present: Chris Fenno, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon , Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Elaine Boyce, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Carol Morgan, Mary Kay Hewlett, Cara Cookson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of September 10, 2018, and approved them as presented.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There was no legislative update this month.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for September 2018. She noted that expenses related to Domestic Assault were on the high side, with lots of relocation costs that month. Year-to-Date expenses for Domestic Assault were twice what they were in the prior year for the same period. Expenses for Sexual Assault (SA) were also up compared to the prior year, but only by \$3K, with the largest SA payments made for the initial exam. The largest expense category in September was for Homicide claims, but there were no new homicides. Christine explained that all homicide expenses paid out were for cases that occurred in prior months, a lot of which involved travel costs. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 65584 – This claim was originally brought to the Board on 5/14/18 to determine the victim’s eligibility, but was tabled at that time, pending the outcome of payment of medical expenses by auto insurance. On 10/02/18, the victim’s attorney contacted staff of the Compensation Program and indicated that the victim was not interested in pursuing payment of losses, including medical expenses, from the Compensation Program. Therefore, the claim was now brought back to the Board for determination of claim eligibility. After discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor to find the claim ineligible for compensation.

Claim 65941 – This claim was brought to the Board to determine the victim’s eligibility. The suspect was being charged with 23 VSA 1128(A), Leaving Scene of Crash—Property Damage. The victim incurred medical expenses that were paid in full by Medicaid. In addition to seeking compensation for medical expenses, the victim was seeking compensation for lost wages, mileage, rent/relocation, and cell phone lost in the crash. After discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor to find the claim ineligible for compensation.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Elaine Boyce reported on the Restitution Unit for September 2018. She remarked that Year-to-Date collections for the current fiscal year (FY19) were way ahead of the yearly goal, even though collections for September were a bit below the month's goal. Elaine noted that the RU has filed quite a few real estate liens when they discover property owned by an offender. This has successfully motivated offenders to pay since the lien creates an inconvenience when the offender wants to re-finance or sell. In September, three restitution files were closed due to death of the offender. In answer to a question from the Board, Elaine explained that deceased offenders don't usually have much of an estate to pursue, and locating the county where the offender died, etc., is very labor intensive so the RU does not try to pursue estates of the deceased. The Restitution Unit Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through September 2018. With the current fiscal year 25% complete, Carol noted that the CCVS's Special Fund Receipts were a little down compared to the same point in the prior fiscal year. However, after running a 3-year average to compare the difference in revenues with the previous 3-year average, she found that the revenues were only down about \$5K, so looking pretty stable. Elaine Boyce and Carol Brochu both noted that receipts from court fines and fees were low in the first quarter of FY19, which is the major source of the Special Fund revenue.

The timing of CCVS's receipt of surcharges on marriage license fees can vary, depending on when the court clerks process the fees. Although the court deposits the money into our Special Fund, Carol noted that the CCVS gets no back-up or proof from the courts to confirm what that deposit should be. The last increase the Center got was to the marriage license fee, and those receipts go toward funding Domestic Violence sub-grantees. Bob Paolini remarked that when the legislature approved that increase, they also stated that no more fee increases would be approved for CCVS after that.

Reviewing "Expenditures by Fund," Carol noted that expenses for Compensation claims were below what she'd budgeted for, with the fiscal year 25% complete and only 16% of the Compensation Funds paid out. Carol was preparing the Center's Fiscal Year 2020 budget for submission to the Dept. of Finance and Management by Oct. 20th. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno provided a Center Update for September 2018. She advised that CCVS had been awarded all three grants recently applied for, as follows: 1) funding for three years, that will pay for two new positions: a Director of Human Trafficking (HT) Services and a Coordinator for the HT Task Force; 2) funding for a grants management database; and 3) a small training grant, which will probably be used to increase web-based trainings. The HT positions will be CCVS staff but will spend much of their time travelling around the state. It was noted that people hired for the HT positions could lose their jobs after three years, if new grant funding is not obtained. The State Police have agreed to hire one of the HT positions, with assistance from the co-chairs of the HR Task Force.

In other business, Chris noted that interviews were wrapping up with six candidates to fill a second grants management position at CCVS. On Oct. 12th, CCVS would be hosting a "Start by Believing" conference on the importance of believing victims of sexual assault. The conference was arranged by Grants Manager, Gene Nelson, and the keynote speaker Kim Lonsway of End Violence Against Women International was speaking at no charge.

As was done last year, Cara Cookson had arranged four public forums, to start on Oct. 15th, to be held in more rural areas of the state. Cara was also gearing up for the new legislative session. Bob Paolini advised that now was a good time for C CVS to pursue new legislation.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:35 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
Dec. 10, 2018
1:30 – 3:30 PM**

**Meeting room in the
Compensation Program offices
58 South Main St.
Waterbury, VT**