

**Center for Crime Victim Services  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Bob Paolini, Susan Ide, Margaret Joyal, Richard Katzman.

**Absent:** Jerry O'Neill. **Staff Members Present:** Chris Fenno, Elaine Boyce, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Vicki Garza, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM.

**REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of January 13, 2020 and approved them unanimously, as presented.

**COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT**

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for January. A total of 41 regular claims and 21 sexual assault (SA) claims were received in January 2020. Year-to-date, the number of regular claims was up 16.67% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Sexual assault claims showed a year-to-date decrease of 2.80% compared to the previous fiscal year.

Reviewing year-to-date expenses by type of crime, Christine noted that expenses for Aggravated Assault were significantly lower than in the previous fiscal year. Year-to-date expenses related to Homicide were also lower than in the previous fiscal year. However, year-to-date expenses had increased for both Simple Assault and Domestic Assault, compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Christine noted that the University of Vermont Medical Center has a new billing system that has been causing a delay in their providing information to the Compensation Program. Margaret Joyal and Richard Katzman confirmed that UVMCMC's new billing system was causing issues throughout the system. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION RE: PAYMENT CAPS**

Carol Morgan and Vicki Garza presented information and requested the Board's guidance on questions regarding payment caps for sexual assault (SA) claims. Carol Morgan advised that only one SA claim had ever been large enough to raise a question regarding the payment cap. The Board agreed that staff should keep an eye on SA claims and wait for upcoming feedback from the auditors at the OIG (Office of the Inspector General).

**REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIM**

**Claim 66842** - This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of payment for a desk and chair for the victim, as suggested by medical providers. The estimated cost was up to \$1,433.99. The suspect was charged with LSA(a) and the victim incurred injury. Margaret Joyal motioned to cover the cost and Susan Ide seconded the motion. The Board voted all-in-favor to cover the cost. After the meeting, staff learned that another non-profit organization would cover the bulk of the expense, leaving a smaller amount to be paid by the Compensation Program.

## **RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT**

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for January 2020. Collections for January came in shy of the month's goal, but only by less than \$1K. A total of 80 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) had been received statewide for the month, which Michelle noted was a typical number. However, Chittenden County was no longer consistently generating the most RJOs. For the last three months, Washington County had been producing the most RJOs. Regarding cases sent to court diversion, Michelle advised that each county seems to be finding its own ways to handle such cases.

Regarding money the RU receives via the state's Unclaimed Property office, Michelle noted that this was only the second year the RU had been working with that office, but the staff of Unclaimed Property were extremely helpful and had been quick to develop working processes. The amount from unclaimed property that the RU receives this fiscal year is likely to be less than received last year, since last year's figure was an accumulated balance covering previous years. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through January 2020. She passed around copies of an informational "snapshot" flyer on CCVS that she and Chris Fenno had presented to members of the House Appropriations Committee at a recent meeting. Carol noted that revenues to CCVS had improved in January, with several large deposits coming into the Center's three special funds. The three funds are still lower than they should be at this point in the fiscal year, but the balances have improved. CCVS had just issued payments to sub-grantees, which is a recurring quarterly expense. Carol noted that compensation expenses were relatively low in January, but were slightly higher than budgeted for (60% paid-out at 58% through the fiscal year). The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

## **CENTER UPDATE**

Chris Fenno updated the Board on several topics and legislative issues. Among other issues, CCVS has concerns with bills related to competency issues and parole hearings for serious offenders. Chris advised that due to the expected decrease in VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding, CCVS will be doing proactive planning with partner organizations and subgrantees, so that the partners will have a plan in place to handle any future funding cuts.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made and seconded at 2:55 PM to go into Executive Session. The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:10 PM, with no action taken.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 3:11 PM

## **Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:**

**Monday,  
May 11, 2020 - 1:30 PM  
Via Zoom Meeting**