

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2019**

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

Absent: Susan Ide.

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

Absent: Mary Kay Hewlett.

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

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of January 14, 2019 and approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for January 2019. She noted that the number of regular compensation claims received this January (42 claims) was identical to the number received in January of the previous year. Year-to-Date, the number of claims received in the current fiscal year (312) was only one claim more than the number received at same point in the previous fiscal year. As of January, the current fiscal year (FY19) showed a small increase (0.34%) in the average number of regular claims per month, and a 17.28% increase in the average number of claims for Sexual Assault (SA). In January, just under \$8,000 was paid out for sexual assault claims.

Comparing fiscal years, FY19 showed significant increases from FY18 in expenses for Aggravated Assault, Domestic Assault, and Homicide. Year-to-date, in FY19 there were 66 Homicide claims. Christine Morrison noted that one Homicide claim can have multiple claimants from family members of the deceased. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 66010 – This claim was brought to the Board to determine the victim’s eligibility. The suspect was being charged with 23 VSA 1128 (A), Leaving the Scene of Crash – Property Damage. The victim was seeking compensation for medical expenses and lost wages. These type of cases (Leaving Scene of Accident) must be brought to the Board on a case-by-case basis for review. Board members discussed various issues with this particular case. With one board member abstaining, the Board voted three-in-favor to find the claim ineligible for compensation because the act of leaving the scene of an a crash in and of itself does not cause the injury to the victim.

The Board indicated that they would like to review the minutes from the meeting that staff and Board had with John Treadwell from the Attorney General’s office. John Treadwell had reviewed the Compensation Program’s statute and provided his interpretation of statute at that meeting. Carol indicated that she would provide those minutes to the Board, per their request.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for January 2019. Collections for January came in a bit short of the month's goal, however Year-to-Date collections were \$6,000 ahead of the fiscal year's goal. RU Case Managers collected \$40,877 in January and there were no receipts from Tax Offsets.

For the past two years the RU has sent unclaimed victim payments to the state's unclaimed property office. Michelle advised that this year the RU has been working with that office to see if any offenders have unclaimed property. Theoretically, it looks as though there may be up to \$36,000 in offender unclaimed property that the RU could receive and distribute to victims. The Restitution Unit Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through January 2019. She advised that this January the Compensation Special Fund revenues did well and exceeded last January's. The Restitution Fund and DV/SV Fund were also in healthy shape, and Year-to-Date Compensation expenses were less than budgeted for at this point in the fiscal year.

Carol Brochu advised that she and Chris Fenno had presented to the House Appropriations Committee recently. Bob Paolini and the Center's state Financial Analyst were also present at that meeting. The Center's three new federal grants were discussed, as well as increases to CCVS expenses such as travel. When Carol Brochu informed the Committee that CCVS has received a federal grant to acquire a grants management software system, she learned that other state agencies are also wanting such a system. CCVS needs to spend that federal grant within the next two years. Carol noted that CCVS would like to purchase a software system that would work with other state agencies. There would be a cost savings for all state users if they can share the same system. CCVS is also looking at re-designing our annual report and returning to a printed version. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno advised that CCVS had formally retracted the 30-day notice given to subgrantee HopeWorks, after the organization submitted an improved work plan and agreed with a CCVS requirement to provide an outreach plan this March. Chris met with the Board of HopeWorks and learned that all new positions at HopeWorks were interim to allow for the possibility of former staff returning. Chris noted that the former employees had formed a collective, which if it becomes a new Network program could receive CCVS funding. CCVS board member Jerry O'Neill disclosed that one of his firm's partners represents HopeWorks, so if the CCVS Board ever needs to rule on this issue, Jerry will recuse himself.

Chris Fenno updated the Board on her meeting with Vermont senators regarding defunded STOP subgrantees. CCVS has offered technical assistance to the defunded programs and will provide three months of gap-funding to cover staff salaries while new grant funding for them is pending.

Chris advised on a meeting with Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) regarding audit requirements and the federal threshold that triggers an audit. The federal requirement for site visits has been changed from every three years to every two years. However, CCVS was able to change this to every four years, based on a desk review that assessed subgrantee risk levels. A desk review allows

CCVS to request documentation without traveling to a site to view it. Monitoring of subgrantees is labor-intensive for CCVS since we have 60 subgrantees, most receiving numerous grants.

Regarding new positions, Chris advised that CCVS has advertised nationally to fill two Human Trafficking positions and received 150 applications. Chris also met with the State's Attorneys' Victim Advocates (SAVAs) to get their feedback on creating a new position to oversee them. The position would be structured as a state position, but housed at CCVS.

CCVS will be doing a complete review of its Personnel Policies and proposed changes will be brought to the Board for review this summer.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:00 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
March 11, 2019
1:30 – 3:30 PM**

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