

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 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, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer, partial attendance: Mallory Parker. **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 December 9, 2020 and approved them unanimously, as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for December. A total of 44 regular claims and 18 sexual assault (SA) claims were received in December 2019. The number of regular claims received this December had increased 12.82 % compared to December of 2018. Looking at year-to-date figures, regular claims had increased 19.63% in the current fiscal year (FY20) compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year (FY19). For the first time in many months, there was a decrease in SA claims, with December 2019 down 28% from December 2018, and year-to-date SA claims showing a decrease of 4.07% compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year.

Reviewing expenses by type of crime, the number of payments related to Homicide claims was rather high in December 2019. Christine noted that much of that was related to a high number of travel expenses and lost wages processed that month. Year-to-date, FY20 had an increase in total payments for both regular and SA claims, compared to the same period in FY19. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Carol Morgan presented documentation and asked the Board for guidance on claims that involved civil recovery, subrogation, and restitution that had been ordered to the Compensation Program. After discussion, Susan Ide motioned and Margaret Joyal seconded that the Compensation Program should deduct the full lien amount of \$20K as outlined in the proposed settlement. With Richard Katzman abstaining, the Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for December 2019. She advised that December is always a slow month, with offenders making fewer payments. This December continued that trend, with collections falling \$12K short of the month’s goal. A few previous months had also fallen short. Overall, the RU has been receiving fewer Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) from the courts. Only 15 RJOs were received from Chittenden County in December 2019. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through December 2019. She presented some concerns with declining revenues into the Center's special funds, as well as a projected reduction in our federal VOCA Assistance grant. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno updated the Board on several topics. Now that the legislature is back in session, there are several bills pending that are of interest to C CVS. Chris had attended a recent meeting with state senators regarding a bill that would freeze assets in probate court for offenders who murder their spouse. C CVS is also involved in a pending bill that would add language to address victim-notification in criminal cases where the offender has a mental health condition. Margaret Joyal advised that confidentiality protections in such cases are even higher than medical HIPAA protections, so such notification could be challenging to implement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made and seconded at 3:05 PM to go into Executive Session with Executive Director Chris Fenno. The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:20 PM, with no action taken.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 3:21 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
February 10, 2020
1:30 PM**

**Conference room at
60 South Main St.
Waterbury, VT**