

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2019**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Margaret Joyal, Susan Ide, Jerry O’Neill. **Absent:** Richard Katzman. **Staff Members Present:** Chris Fenno, Elaine Boyce, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Melinda Meyer, Gina Yalicki, Samantha Giroux, Kira Krier. **Absent:** Carol Morgan, Carol Brochu, 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 June 10, 2019 and approved them with the following revision in the first paragraph of the Center Update, to read as follows: “A new task force on Campus Sexual Harm was also forming and will include C CVS Board member Susan Ide. C CVS staff member Vicki Garza will also attend the task force meetings.”

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for June. A total of 27 regular claims and 26 sexual assault (SA) claims were received in June 2019. The number of regular claims received showed a decrease of 40.43% compared to June 2018 (which had 47 such claims). Christine noted that June 2019 was one of the lowest months ever for regular claims received. Year-to-date, regular claims showed a decrease of 4.69% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.

Reviewing expenses paid in June 2019, Christine noted that payments related to Domestic Assault were high at \$14K, and payment for Counseling and Lost Wages were also on the high side. Homicide-related expenses were \$23K.

Regarding SA claims, there were 26 SA claims received in June 2019 compared to 23 in June 2018, for an increase of 13.04%. Year-to-Date, 230 SA claims were received in the current fiscal year compared to 213 in the same period of the previous fiscal year, for an increase of 7.98%. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 66363 – This claim was brought to the Board to determine if the aunt of the deceased victim was eligible for her own claim and would be considered a victim. (Per statute, the eligibility of certain family members is to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Board.) This surviving family member was seeking compensation for funeral expenses. The suspect was being charged with “DUI Fatal, Operation—Gross Negligence Fatal.” The Board voted all-in-favor to find the aunt eligible for compensation.

Claim 66261 – This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of payment for a “handpan” (a type of small drum) for the surviving family member of a deceased homicide victim. The suspect was being charged with second degree murder. Compensation staff had not yet received a letter from the claimant’s therapist endorsing the therapeutic value of the handpan, which is required by the Compensation Program guidelines. After discussing the cost of the handpan and the potential value of participating in a drum-therapy group, vs. drumming alone, the Board voted to table any decision until the letter from the therapist is received.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for June 2019, which was a very good month and helped the RU have one of its best years for collections since the unit began. June collections had exceeded the month's goal by a wide margin, with Case Managers bringing in \$113K and another \$13K received via tax offsets. Michelle noted that the offender in an embezzlement case sold a house and because the RU had a lien on the property, \$75K came in via that sale. Close to \$14K was also collected during fiscal year 2019 via offender lottery winnings. Michelle presented a list of Vermont state agencies that the RU collects restitution for. By the end of FY19 the RU had collected a grand total of approx. \$106K for the combined list of agencies, which includes the Victims Compensation Program. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF RESTITUTION CLAIM

VT vs R.R., Docket 522-8-13 AnCr

This restitution case was brought to the Board to determine the amount that could be advanced from the Restitution Special Fund, if any. The offender was charged with burglary. At issue was the value of stolen paintings and whether they should be considered a collectible pursuant to §5363 Crime Victim's Restitution Special Fund (d) (6): *An advance under this subsection shall not be made for: (B) luxury items or collectibles identified in rules adopted by the Unit pursuant to subdivision 5362(c)(5) of this title.* Rules have not been updated to reflect statutory change. After discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor to decline upfront payment from the Fund.

FINANCIAL REPORT

With Financial Manager Carol Brochu absent, there was no financial report for June 2019.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno updated the Board on various topics. The legislature was currently not in session, and Chris advised that she was speaking with Jennifer Poehlmann about the possibility of Jennifer monitoring future legislative sessions on behalf of C CVS, as she did in previous years when she was employed by C CVS. Chris advised that the candidate selected as the new HT Task Force Coordinator had accepted the position and would start on Aug. 19th.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:20 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board went into Executive Session at 2:21 PM to discuss a personnel matter. The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:00 PM, with no action taken.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, August 19, 2019

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Meeting room at

60 South Main St., Waterbury, VT