

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2019**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Ide, Jerry O’Neill. **Absent:** Margaret Joyal, Richard Katzman. **Staff Members Present:** Chris Fenno, Elaine Boyce, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Carol Brochu, Michelle Pelletier, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Mary Kay Hewlett.

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of May 13, 2019 and approved them as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

There were no claims requiring Board review.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for May. A total of 55 regular claims and 21 sexual assault (SA) claims were received in May 2019. The number of regular claims received this May showed a decrease of 23.61% compared to May 2018. Year-to-date, regular claims showed a decrease of 1.18% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. A total of \$30K was paid for regular claims in May 2019 and Christine noted that none of the expense categories were particularly large. The largest expense was for Counseling, which included payments for two months due to staff being on vacation. Regarding comparisons to previous fiscal years, Christine explained that a lot of Child Abuse & Neglect claims are now recorded as “Child DV” which skews the comparison to previous years, when those claims were included in the general DV category.

Two more SA claims were received in May 2019 than in May 2018. However, year-to-date, SA claims had increased 7.37% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Expenses for SA claims were almost \$15K in May 2019. Christine noted that payment for “Sex Assault HIV” (prophylactics prescriptions) was high that month. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for May 2019. Collections had exceeded the month’s goal by \$16K, with the Case Managers bringing in \$68K and another \$51K received via tax offsets. Michelle expected that by the end of June the RU would meet or exceed its FY19 yearly goal. Michelle advised that the RU receives monies from Unclaimed Property once a year, and is last on the list of state agencies to receive such payment. This year the RU received \$26K from the unclaimed property of offenders. In addition, This year the RU sent a total of \$45K to unclaimed property on behalf of victims. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through May 2019. She advised that the Center's revenue from Special Fund Receipts had decreased in May for all three funds, but with Fiscal Year 2019 nearly complete the revenues weren't terrible. It helped that the Compensation Program's expenses were only 63% of the budgeted amount, with the fiscal year 92% complete. Also, both the Restitution Fund and the DV/SV Fund had started FY19 with healthier balances than in prior years.

The budget for the new fiscal year (FY20), which begins on July 1st, reflects increases to the Center's federal grants. Carol Brochu explained that the Center's federal VOCA grant funds for FY20 were decreased by two million, however that cut was not as bad as she'd worried it might be. The Center's state funds were level-funded for FY20. There will be no cuts to programs and the Center will be able to maintain some of its new initiatives for at least two years. She noted that the Compensation Special Fund pays the salaries for the States Attorneys' Victim Advocate (SAVA) positions, and each year those increase. There have been many conversations over the years, as to who pays for increases to SAVA wages. The State's Attorneys provide figures to Carol which she uses to build each year's budget, bridging the gap with VOCA funds. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno advised that the legislative session had ended, but several study groups were formed, including one to address the language regarding expungement of criminal records and clarity regarding payment of restitution and court fees. A new task force on Campus Sexual Harm was also forming and will include CCVS Board member Susan Ide. CCVS staff member Vicki Garza will also attend the task force meetings. Three other CCVS staff were attending a federal training on Human Trafficking.

CCVS's Training Director had left her position in early June, but would now be contracted to continue running the Vermont Victims Assistance Academy trainings. Regarding the new position of HT Task Force Coordinator, Chris Fenno was waiting for confirmation of acceptance by the person offered the job.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:14 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board went into Executive Session at 2:15 PM with Chris Fenno to discuss CCVS staff wages. The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:22 PM, having confirmed that FY2020 Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) for CCVS staff could be issued since the COLA had been approved previously as part of the FY2020 budget approval.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, June 10, 2019

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Meeting room in the Compensation Program offices

58 South Main St., Waterbury, VT