

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2019**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of September 9, 2019 and approved them unanimously, with a small correction to one sentence in the second paragraph of the Compensation Claims Report, which was revised to read as follows: "Overall, compensation expenses for FY20 regular claims were about \$4K less than in the previous fiscal year, while SA expenses were about \$14K more than in the prior fiscal year." The Board also reviewed the minutes of the September 30, 2019 special meeting and approved them as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Susan Ide motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss individual compensation claims and Margaret Joyal seconded. The Board went into Executive Session with staff of the Victims Compensation Program at 1:35 pm. Richard Katzman motioned to end Executive Session and Bob Paolini seconded. The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:18 pm with the following action taken:

Claim A – This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of payment of additional lost wages beyond the lost wage cap of \$6,000. The suspect was charged with GNC/Serious Injury and DUI #1 Influence/Injury. The victim was requesting additional lost wages due to injury, in the amount of \$3,773.90 (balance left in claim up to the maximum cap of \$10,000.00) After discussion, Susan Ide motioned to support the payment and Richard Katzman seconded. The Board voted unanimously to pay the victim's additional lost wages.

Claim B – This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of payment of additional lost wages beyond the lost wage cap of \$6,000. The suspect was charged with GNC/Serious Injury and DUI #1 Influence/Injury. The victim was requesting additional lost wages due to injury, in the amount of \$3,3270.20. (balance left in claim up to the maximum cap of \$10,000.00) After discussion, Susan Ide motioned to support the payment and Richard Katzman seconded. The Board voted unanimously to pay the victim's additional lost wages.

Claim C – This claim was brought to the Board to determine what claim information was allowable to be released to the victim now that the victim is over the age of 18. After discussion, Richard Katzman motioned as follows, Susan Ide seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously on the following: 1) the Compensation Program may disclose information per the program's existing guidelines; 2) compensation staff will encourage the claimant to search for information in the criminal court records with assistance from the appropriate State's Attorney's Victim Advocate; 3)

compensation staff will advise the victim that the victim can receive eligible compensation for the remaining balance of the victim's claim, up to the cap.

Claim D – 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, lost wages, mileage, and travel. Susan Ide motioned to find the victim eligible and Bob Paolini seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to find the victim eligible for compensation.

Claim E – This claim was brought to the Board to consider payment for summer camp/childcare. The suspect was being charged with domestic assault. The claimant was seeking compensation for childcare. The amount requested for summer camp/childcare was \$1,798.00. Margaret Joyal motioned to approve and Richard Katzman seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the payment.

Claim F – This claim was brought to the Board to consider payment for summer camp/childcare. The suspect was being charged with domestic assault. The claimant was seeking compensation for childcare. The amount requested for summer camp/childcare was \$1,828.00. Margaret Joyal motioned to approve and Richard Katzman seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the payment.

Claim G – This claim was brought to the Board because the surviving homicide victim in this case was asking for payment for travel to a domestic violence awareness event on October 30, 2019. The estimated cost of the airline ticket was \$2,139.00 and the cost of the required Visa was \$460.00. Susan Ide motioned to approve and Richard Katzman seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve travel payment up to the claim's cap of \$10,000.00

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION of ELIGIBILITY OF IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES

Carol Morgan advised the Board on the requested feedback that staff had received from Victim Advocates as to how the State's Attorneys offices are treating these crimes. The Victim Advocates have stated that their offices do not consider identity theft to be a property crime.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Jodie Bacon presented the Compensation report for September 2019. A total of 60 regular claims and 25 sexual assault (SA) claims were received this September. To-date, the current fiscal year (FY20) showed a 13.19% increase in regular claims compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year (FY19). The number of SA claims received to-date for FY20 also increased, by 17.86% compared to the same period in FY19. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through September 2019. Reviewing the Center's fund balances, she advised that both the Special Fund and the Restitution Fund received less revenue during July-September of the current fiscal year than they received in the previous fiscal year. There was a decrease of about 8% in revenue from fines and fees in the current fiscal year (FY20), compared to the previous year (FY19). The DV/SV Fund also had a significant drop in revenue. Carol noted that VOCA subgrantees have all been level-funded, and despite a significant drop in our federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding, the Center will be able to fund VOCA subgrant programs for the next two years. No programs have been cut at this time.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for September 2019. Although collections for September fell short of the monthly goal by \$14K, to-date collections for FY20 were in good shape since August's collections had exceeded their goal by \$24K. The RU receives 80 – 90 Restitution Judgement Orders from the courts each month. Michelle advised that the RU had finished interviewing for a new Collections Case Manager and had offered the position to a candidate, contingent on a successful background check.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno updated the Board on a several topics. She advised that the OIG (Office of the Inspector General) would be auditing the Victims Compensation Program in November, as part of their overall audit of the Center's VOCA Compensation funding. OIG representatives would be on-site, looking at policies and procedures.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:02 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, December 9, 2019

1:30 PM

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