

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of August 19, 2019 and approved them unanimously as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for August 2019. A total of 54 regular claims and 13 sexual assault (SA) claims were received this August. The number of regular claims received in August 2019 was 54 compared to 69 regular claims in August 2018, for a decrease of 21.73%. The number of SA claims received this August (13 claims) was exactly the same amount as in August 2018. Comparing year-to-date figures, the current fiscal year (FY20) showed a decrease of 8.84% in regular claims, compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year (FY19), however the number of SA claims showed an increase of 13.88% for the same period.

Reviewing year-to-date expenses, at two months into FY20, compensation for Lost Wages was significantly higher in the current fiscal year, while expenses for Rent/Relocation and Travel were less compared to the same period in the previous year. 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 Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION of ELIGIBILITY OF IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES

Carol Morgan asked the Board for guidance regarding possible future crimes involving identity theft. She noted that staff have not seen many claims with this charge in the past, but law enforcement are starting to use it and victims have begun asking for payment related to crimes charged as identity theft. After discussion, Board decision was tabled pending further information from Victim Advocates on how the State’s Attorneys offices are treating these crimes. On the related question of whether or not the Compensation Program could continue to pay for stolen driver’s licenses, the Board voted unanimously that such payment could continue.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 66398 – This claim had been previously tabled pending receipt of a copy of the victim’s lease for review. A copy of the lease had since been received and the claim was brought back to the Board for consideration of payment of the landlord’s insurance deductible which was collected by the Vermont Housing Authority for arson damages to the victim and suspect’s apartment. The insurance deductible was the victim’s responsibility to pay. The suspect was being charged with First Degree

Arson, Second Degree Arson. The victim was seeking compensation to pay for the landlord's insurance deductible which the victim was required to pay in the amount of \$5,000. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously on behalf of the victim to pay the landlord's insurance deductible.

Claim 66562 – This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of payment to the victim for the cost of CBD oil and other prescribed/recommended supplements. The monthly cost of the CBD oil and other supplements would be \$173.63. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the payment, with the provision that after six months the Compensation Program staff will check with the recommending therapist to ask if the victim's use of the supplements are still relevant to the crime and should continue.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:00 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019

1:30 PM

Conference room at

60 South Main St.

Waterbury, VT