

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of March 11, 2019 and approved them as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 66240 -- This claim was brought to the Board determine if the victim's adult son was eligible for travel expenses to attend the change of plea hearing on his mother's behalf. The victim in this case is a vulnerable adult. The adult son was seeking compensation for travel expenses in the amount of \$547.50 for airfare. The Board voted all-in-favor to approve the payment.

Claim 64687 -- This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of payment of additional lost wages beyond the Program's twelve-week policy cap, for the victim's father/guardian to attend the two-week trial. The suspect was charged with attempted murder. As a direct result of the crime, the victim is now legally blind and has lost his hearing. The victim's father/guardian was seeking compensation for two weeks of lost wages, up to \$1,000.00 (\$500.00 per week cap), pending verification. Jerry O'Neill abstained from voting. The other Board members voted all-in-favor to approve the payment.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS INVOLVING LSA (LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT)

This discussion had been tabled at the March meeting. The Board was asked how they want the Compensation Program staff to handle claims resulting from LSA (a) moving forward? The Board discussed that LSA is a crime, but not the crime that caused the injury. It is inconsistent if the Compensation Program pays claims resulting from LSA (b) & (c), but not from LSA (a). This issue isn't always black and white, and the Board has latitude to determine what is an eligible crime. Jerry O'Neill felt that LSA (b) and (c) were not compensable for the same reason that LSA (a) is not. He suggested getting a legislative change made to the statute. In the meantime, it was suggested that Compensation staff ask the State's Attorney if they could provide probable cause for any other charge, other than LSA (such as Negligent Operation), that would make the victim eligible for compensation without requiring Board review when a victim has sustained injury in a LSA; because the charged crime of LSA, in and of itself, does not cause a victim's injury. Bob Paolini and Chris Fenno agreed to discuss this issue with James Pepper from the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for March. A total of 58 regular claims were received in March. The number of regular claims this March was 13.73% higher than in March 2018, however, comparing fiscal years, regular claims were only up by 0.25% compared to the previous

fiscal year. There were fewer sexual assault (SA) claims this March 2019 with a total of 23, but SA claims show an overall increase for the current fiscal year (FY 19). With a total of 166 SA claims so far in FY 19, there was an increase of 9.21% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. A total of \$37,942.00 was paid for regular claims this March, most of which was for DV claims. March 2019 had a large increase in pay-outs for sexual assaults claims, compared to February 2019, but this was due to the SA staff person being out for a couple of weeks in February. Year-to-date, both programs show increased pay-outs in FY19 compared to FY 18. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for March 2019. Collections for March came in above the month's goal, by just over \$5,000.00. Year-to-Date collections were \$12,500 ahead of the fiscal year's goal. RU Case Managers collected \$57,527.44 in March and \$120,720.23 in Tax Offset money came in. There was a large increase in paid-in-full files in March, due to tax money that comes in and pays accounts in full. A new RU Case Manager started work on 3/25/19 and was off to a great start. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through March 2019. She advised that this January the Compensation Special Fund revenues did well, and there was a large increase in Special Fund receipts. The Restitution Fund and DV/SV Fund were also in healthy shape, and year-to-date Compensation expenses were less than budgeted for at this point in the fiscal year. Looking towards fiscal year 2021, Carol was concerned that the Center's VOCA grant funds may be less in the future. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno was spending two days a week at the State House, and working with others to get language put back into the Expungement bill, such that surcharges must be paid before an offender's record can be expunged. Regarding the new Human Trafficking (HT) positions, Chris advised that the second interview for the HT Services Director had been held that morning and interviews for the HT Task Force Coordinator were scheduled for April 19th. The Center had presented the budget for Fiscal Year 2020 two times, once to the Senate Appropriations Committee and once to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Chris commented that this year's celebration event for Crime Victims' Rights Week went nicely. The key note was great, and Samantha Giroux did a great job reaching out to the media. There was a ton of press at the event.

Chris advised that a contract had been executed with the Burlington Community Justice Center to fund a Restorative Justice process for the St. Joseph's Orphanage victims. The Board review of the Center's personnel policies was delayed because members of the committee had been out on vacation.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:35 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board went into Executive Session at 2:40 PM to discuss a personnel matter and the Executive Director's evaluation. The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:50 PM with no action taken.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:
Monday, May 13, 2019: 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Meeting room in the Compensation Program offices
58 South Main St., Waterbury, VT