

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
Feb. 12, 2018**

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of Jan. 8, 2018, and approved them as presented.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Cara Cookson updated the Board on legislation of concern to the Center. She had recently testified on Bill H.611, an act relating to Victims Compensation and subrogation liens. This bill passed the House and strengthens the language by adding “assignee” and “heir” to the statute, making it easier for the Victims Compensation Program to recover money via subrogation. Cara also advised that bill H.711, relating to employment protections for crime victims, had a decent chance of being passed. She’d also been attending meetings on efforts that might roll-back victim protections, including H.150 involving medical parole, and H.728 involving bail reform.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for January 2018. A total of 42 new regular claims, not including sexual assault (SA), were received in January, and a total of 18 SA claims were received. January 2018 showed a decrease in new regular compensation claims, compared to January 2017. However, comparing the current fiscal year (FY18) with the prior fiscal year (FY17), there was an overall increase of 1.32% for regular compensation claims received through January 2018, compared with the same point in the prior fiscal year.

January 2018 showed an increase in SA claims, compared to January 2017. The fiscal year-to-date number of SA claims received through January 2018 was exactly equal to the number received at that point in the prior fiscal year (122 for both years).

Reviewing January’s “Cash Disbursement by Crime,” Christine explained that the 3 claims listed as “Other” were related to the following crimes: Petty Larceny; Disorderly Conduct; and Kidnapping with Death Resulting. Reviewing January’s “Cash Disbursement by Expense Type,” the \$2,022.52 payment listed as “Other” was for a wheelchair ramp. Christine stated that there was nothing particularly unusual this month, although more applications have been coming in from crime victims who have no medical insurance. Consequently, payments for medical expenses, which had been in decline, are going up again. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Claim 62867 – This case was brought to the Board to determine if the Board would consider waiving/reducing the Compensation Program’s subrogation lien in this homicide case. The deceased victim was survived by his mother, who is the beneficiary of the deceased victim’s estate. The Compensation Program had paid out \$7,835.38 on this claim for crime-related expenses. After

discussion, the Board voted all-in-favor to offer a \$1,800 reduction of the compensation subrogation lien and request repayment of \$6,035.38 to the Compensation Program.

Claim 65285 – This case was brought to the Board to determine if the victim’s medical treatment, sought outside the United States, was directly related to the crime. The suspect in this case was being charged with Lewd and Lascivious Conduct. The victim was seeking compensation for medical expenses in the amount of \$7,523.19. The Board voted all-in-favor to reimburse the victim for medical expenses up to the Compensation Program’s payment cap.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Elaine Boyce reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) through January 2018. A total of 80 new Restitution Judgement Orders were received in January; the majority coming from Chittenden County, followed by Caledonia County, then Windsor County. Elaine remarked that collections were good. Even though January’s collections were \$1,400 short of the month’s target, with five months left in the current fiscal year (FY18), overall collections were still above-target for FY18.

Elaine advised the Board on a case of post-judgement restitution in the Northeast Kingdom, in which the Victim Advocate has convinced the State’s Attorney to file a motion to reconsider. The case, from 2015, involves a car accident that cost the victim \$8,600. Although documents were sent to the offender’s attorney six days before the hearing, he took no action on them, and when the deadline had passed, the attorney stated that his client therefore did not need to pay restitution. Cara Cookson advised that there is a statute that specifically negates the attorney’s argument. The Restitution Unit Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report for January 2018. On the page titled “FY 2018 Special Fund Receipts,” Carol has added a new column called “Difference” to show the difference between the current fiscal year and previous fiscal year. With the current fiscal year 58.33% complete, the Center’s revenues so far were close to target.

Reviewing the page titled “Fund Balances,” Carol explained that the top section, showing the “Cash Fund Balance” of the various funds, was like looking at a checkbook balance. Below that is the “Accrued Fund Balance” section, which is based on current fiscal year revenues and expenses. Carol is monitoring the negative accrued balance in the Compensation Fund.

Reviewing “Compensation Claims by Type per Month FY 2018,” Carol noted that although the fiscal year was 58.33% done, expenses paid out for compensation claims were only 37% of the budgeted amount. Carol explained that if this trend continues and only state funds are used to pay compensation claims this fiscal year, the Center would receive a 60% reimbursement in federal grant funds, which would provide a cushion for the future. (If federal funds are used for compensation claims, there is no reimbursement.) Carol Brochu monitors the funds and can adjust as needed to pay claims with state or federal dollars. Carol explained that the figures listed as “Other Grants” indicated transfers of offender restitution collected by the Restitution Unit to the Victims Compensation Program. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno updated the Board on several issues, including a recent budget presentation with Cara Cookson and Carol Brochu, at which CCVS requested more money for the Victim Advocate Program. Chris updated the Board on the issue involving CCVS funds being appropriated to the Dept of Labor. CCVS has learned that this process is being managed by the state’s Finance Dept, and that the Dept. of

Labor is not receiving the entire \$30K appropriation. Instead, they are only being reimbursed for the amount they've spent that is related to domestic violence cases.

Chris advised that C CVS will not be applying for federal ARREST grant funds this year, but will be helping the Rutland State's Attorney's office apply for the grant.

Bob Paolini asked about the status of last year's audit by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Chris advised that we hadn't heard anything recently, but that the OIG's initial findings had been revised favorably, and that the OVC (Office for Victims of Crime) Program Manager who visited C CVS had given us a clean bill of health.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:20 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session at 2:21 pm with Chris Fenno, and came out of Executive Session at 2:30 pm with no action taken.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday,

March 12, 2018

1:30 – 3:30 PM

60 South Main St. conference room

Waterbury, VT