

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
Jan. 11, 2021**

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

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

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of December 7, 2020 and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for December 2020. A total of 25 regular claims were received in December 2020, for a 43.18% decrease compared to the 44 regular claims received in December 2019. The number of sexual assault (SA) claims was also down, with 15 SA claims received in December 2020 compared to 18 SA claims in December 2019, for a decrease of 16.67%. Compared to the same point in the previous fiscal year, the current fiscal year (FY21) showed a year-to-date decrease of 43.96% in regular claims, and a decrease of 18.64% in SA claims, through December 2020. Year-to-date expenses for both regular and SA claims were also down significantly compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Regular claim expenses were lower by about \$44K, and SA expenses were lower by almost \$20K, compared to the same point in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

COMPENSATION REVIEW of PROPOSED INCREASE to MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

Carol Morgan asked the Board to consider three questions regarding a proposed increase to the reimbursement rate for meals of crime victims/survivors. The proposed rates were based on the standard federal reimbursement rates which apply to C CVS employees and victim/survivors. After discussion, Jerry O’Neill motioned to approve, Bob Paolini seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to: 1) approve the proposed meal rate increase; 2) allow the Compensation Program to automatically revise the meal rates in future, and; 3) make such changes effective on January 1st of the calendar year.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for December 2020. The number of new Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) coming in continued to be lower than before the pandemic, with a total of 28 RJOs received from around the state. Washington County produced the most, with 6 RJOs, followed by Caledonia County with 5 RJOs. The RU Case Managers had collected approx. \$37.5K this December, and there were no tax offsets received, which was typical for December. Michelle noted that even before the pandemic, collections in December have tended to be lower than in other months. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through December 2020. Reviewing the CCVS fund balances, she explained that the accrued fund balance shown for the DV/SV Fund was a negative number because those grant payments are issued in advance, and the negative balance shown for Federal Funds was due to a problem with the federal website from which CCVS draws down the funds. Carol expected the website problem to be resolved soon. At six months into the current fiscal year, CCVS revenues continued to be lower than at the same point in the previous fiscal year. On a positive note, Carol explained that the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) that CCVS received in two appropriations were very helpful. CCVS received about \$150K in CRF, which covered expenses that would normally have been funded with state dollars. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno advised that she was involved in lots of legislative committee meetings, and would be testifying on Expungement and on the Department of Corrections' "Good Time" rule for offenders. CCVS had acquired all equipment needed for staff to work remotely if there was another stay-at-home order, and policies and procedures for remote-work had been developed, which could also be used beyond the pandemic. The CCVS grants team was developing procedures for managing reductions to grantees. Chris was happy to report that CCVS had received the grant that would allow for the annual Crime Victim Rights Week events that occur in April.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:55 PM

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
February 8, 2021
1:30 PM**

Via Zoom Meeting