

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022**

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

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Carol Brochu, Michelle Pelletier, Melinda Meyer, Julie Frailey. **Absent:** Carol Morgan.

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 PM with the board members attending via Zoom.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Board Member Margaret Joyal asked to be added to the day's agenda. Margaret informed everyone that, after many years of service, she was stepping down from the Victims Compensation Program Board of Directors, effective immediately. She had a potential candidate in mind for the vacated position, and arranged to send that contact information to the Governor's office for consideration.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of December 10, 2021, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for December 2021. This December, a total of 31 regular claims and 15 sexual assault (SA) claims were received. Year-to-date, the current fiscal year (FY22) showed an increase of 12.7% in the number of regular claims received and an increase of 26.04% in SA claims, compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year (FY21).

FY22 Expenses for regular claims were about \$77K lower than at the same point in the previous fiscal year (FY21), while expenses related to SA claims were about \$27K higher than in FY21. Christine noted that year-to-date payments related to Aggravated Assault were higher in the previous fiscal year (FY21) than the current fiscal year (FY22). The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for December 2021. From around the state, 27 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) came into the RU. For the second month in a row, collections by case managers had exceeded their monthly goal. In December, case managers collected \$48,202 and another \$392 came in via tax offsets. Michelle remarked that year-to-date advance payments to victims from the Restitution Fund were almost double that of the prior fiscal year, which meant more victims were being paid upfront without having to wait for an offender to pay. A lot of offenders were re-financing homes, which was also helping since the RU has liens on many properties. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through December 2021. She advised that CCVS revenues were already low in the previous fiscal year (FY21) and FY22 was looking worse. When the FY22 budget was made, it was hoped that the COVID pandemic would subside and revenues would rebound, however that hadn't happened, hence the need to request a budget adjustment. Although the Restitution Fund was in better shape than other CCVS special funds, even those revenues were only 35% collected, with the fiscal year already 50% complete. She noted that the 75% federal reimbursement CCVS receives for spending state dollars is helpful, but takes about two years to receive. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW PROPOSED CHANGES to PROCESS for CCVS STAFF COLA & STEPS

Carol Brochu explained proposed changes related to CCVS staff retirement plans, and the timing of any staff COLA (Cost of Living Allowances) and pay raises. The proposed changes would reduce administrative work and reduce fees on staff retirement funds. In September, the Board will need to review and approve the FY23 budget for these changes.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on a variety of topics. Regarding CCVS finances, she noted that the FY22 budget adjustment CCVS requested had passed out of the House. The House Judiciary Committee was supportive and had created a subcommittee to look at future funding for CCVS.

Jennifer reported on several other legislative efforts, including an important bill regarding juvenile offenders that had passed and would be "monumental" for crime victims. That bill will ensure that sealed records will not prevent the Victims Compensation Program or the Restitution Unit from doing their work. Another bill had been introduced that would have CCVS convene a Victims Advisory Board on a quarterly basis, to include all victim service providers and stakeholders.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
February 14, 2022
1:30 PM
In the conference room
At 60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**