

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021**

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of February 8, 2021 and unanimously approved them as presented, with clarification to the language describing the executive session.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for February 2021. A total of 38 regular claims were received in February 2021, compared to the 49 regular claims received in the previous February. The number of sexual assault (SA) claims received also showed a decrease, with 11 SA claims in February 2021, compared to 20 SA claims in the previous February. Looking at year-to-date figures, the current fiscal year (FY21) showed a decrease of 42.13% in regular claims, and a year-to-date decrease in SA claims of 16.35% compared to the same point in the previous fiscal year. Christine remarked that the number of new claims was increasing compared to earlier in the pandemic, and staff felt that total claims received in March (to be reflected in next month’s data) might be much closer to the figures of a typical pre-pandemic month. Year-to-date expenses related to the crime of Aggravated Assault were significantly higher in the current fiscal year than in the same point of the previous fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for February 2021. A total of 31 new Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the majority (13 claims) coming from Chittenden County. The RU Case Managers had collected \$59K in February, which exceeded the month’s goal by \$9K. Although this was not an unusual amount in general, Michelle remarked that this February’s collections were the highest since August 2019. Close to \$2K was also received via tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through February 2021. Revenues into all CCVS funds continued to be down substantially, as was expected in CCVS’s budget projections for FY21. Carol noted that state dollars were now being used for compensation expenses. Earlier in the year, those expenses were funded by federal dollars, which was helpful but also reduces the federal reimbursement CCVS receives for using state funds. CCVS informed state legislators of the possible reduction in federal reimbursement, and how that could impact the budget in FY23. In FY22, CCVS will receive a one-time appropriation into the Compensation Special Fund to help support the State’s Attorneys’ Victim Advocates program. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Chris Fenno updated the Board on several topics, including grants management. CCVS grant managers were working with the software provider Agate, to tailor a new grants-management system for use by CCVS and its subgrantee organizations. CCVS grant managers were also holding listening sessions with subgrantees, to learn of stakeholder concerns that will inform future CCVS grant plans. Most CCVS staff were back to working in the office, but some staff were still working partially or fully from home.

DISCUSS ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD IN APRIL

The Board discussed logistics with staff regarding the annual meeting to be held on April 19, 2021. The meeting will be held via Zoom, and will be listed in the Seven Days newspaper and on the CCVS website, with the information needed for the public to attend via computer or by phone.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:28 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Jerry O'Neill, seconded by Margaret Joyal, and the Board voted unanimously at 2:30 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss a topic and made a specific finding that premature general public knowledge of which would clearly place the Center or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:43 PM with no action taken.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Annual Public Meeting

**Monday,
April 19, 2021
1:30 PM**

Via Zoom