

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

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Richard Katzman, Susan Ide. **Absent:** Margaret Joyal.
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Melinda Meyer, Julie Frailey, Carol Brochu (CB via Zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM with Richard Katzman and Susan Ide attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of September 13, 2021, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for September 2021. A total of 31 regular and 19 sexual assault (SA) claims were received this September. While the number of regular claims was 8.82% lower than in the previous September, the number of sexual assault claims was up by 26.32% compared to September 2020. An expense of \$7K listed as “Other” was payment for a fence repair approved by the Board a few months earlier. Comparing year-to-date figures, total compensation payments for the first quarter of the current fiscal year (FY22) were down approximately \$50K compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year (FY21), despite the fact that SA expenses were about \$1.5K higher. Christine noted that payments for medical services in FY22 were about \$30K less than at the same point in FY21. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION RE: PAYMENT for EMERGENCY PHONES FOR CRIME VICTIMS

Carol Morgan presented information on costs for emergency cell phone replacements for crime victims, and asked the Board to consider increasing the payment cap from \$100 to \$200, which would help victims cover the deductible for cell phone replacement. Richard Katzman motioned to approve; Susan Ide seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to raise the payment cap to \$200.00.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for September 2021. Statewide, a total of 38 restitution judgement orders (RJOs) were received this September, with 18 of those coming from Chittenden County. Although many courts still seemed to be operating remotely, this was an increase over the 25 RJOs received in August. For September 2021, collections by the case managers brought in almost \$31K and tax offsets generated \$9.5K. Collections fell short of the month’s goal, due to various factors including a vacant collector’s position at the RU. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report for September 2021. With the first quarter of state fiscal year 2022 (FY22) completed, CCVS's three special funds continued to see declining revenues. Carol explained that CCVS was currently paying compensation claims with state dollars, and since the federal reimbursement rate for doing so has been increased from 60 to 75%, that reimbursement will be helpful. Carol Brochu and Jennifer Poehlmann were soon to meet with the Vermont Department of Finance, to discuss the next fiscal year's budget (FY23). The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann, the new Executive Director of CCVS, advised that she was getting re-acquainted with various CCVS programs and was meeting with stakeholders, gathering information on how each organization's efforts interact and overlap with those of CCVS. Jennifer noted that CCVS had received a one-time general-fund appropriation to be used by June 30, 2022. Those funds will enable CCVS to upgrade the CCVS website with features including: an online application process for crime victims; online access for service providers to view payment status; and time-saving measures for CCVS Compensation Program staff.

RESCHEDULE DECEMBER 2021 MEETING DATE

The Board discussed changing the December 2021 meeting date. Motion was made, seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to change the meeting date to Friday, December 10, 2021, at the usual time of 1:30 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:12 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Friday,
December 10, 2021
1:30 PM**

**In the conference room
At 60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**