

**Center for Crime Victim Services  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Oct. 19, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Bob Paolini, Susan Ide, Jerry O’Neill, Richard Katzman.

**Absent:** Margaret Joyal.

**Staff Members Present:** Chris Fenno, Elaine Boyce, Carol Morgan, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 PM.

**REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of September 14, 2020 and unanimously approved them as presented.

**COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT**

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation report for September 2020. A total of 34 regular claims were received this September, for a 43.33% decrease compared to the 60 regular claims received in September 2019. The number of Sexual Assault (SA) claims also showed a decrease, with 13 SA claims in September 2020 compared to 25 SA claims in September 2019. Compared to the same point in the previous fiscal year, the first quarter of the current fiscal year (FY21) showed a year-to-date decrease of 42.33% in regular claims, and a 13.67% decrease in SA claims. Year-to-date expenses for both regular and SA claims were down compared to the same period in the previous year. Regular claim expenses were \$24.5K lower, and SA expenses were about \$7.5 lower than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

**REVIEW OF SPECIFIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

**Claim 66975** – This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of reimbursement to the applicant of \$64.15 for the purchase of a neck massager suggested by her doctor. The suspect had been charged with First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault and Sexual Assault-No Consent. The Board voted unanimously to approve the payment.

**Claim 67395** – This claim was brought to the Board for consideration of denial, because the applicant was charged with violating a criminal law of the state which caused or contributed to the applicant’s injury. The applicant committed the offense of Unlawful Trespass; the State’s Attorney declined to prosecute. The applicant was seeking compensation for counseling, dental, eyeglasses, lost wages, medical, mileage, safety/security, and travel expenses. After discussing the nuances of the case, the Board voted 3 to 1 to find the claim eligible for payment, due to the extent of the victim’s injuries sustained during the commission of the crime.

**Claim 67366** – This claim was brought to the Board because the applicant was appealing the board’s previous decision, made on September 14, 2020, at which time the Board had found the claim ineligible for compensation because the applicant was charged with violating a criminal law of the state, which caused or contributed to the applicant’s injury. The applicant was charged with Domestic Assault. The applicant was seeking compensation for counseling, lost wages, medical, and safety/security. After reviewing the appeal, the Board had a split vote of 2 to 2, resulting in denial of the appeal.

## **RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT**

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for September 2020. A total of 16 new RJOs were received from around the state. The Case Managers had collected roughly \$41K, which was about \$9K short of the month's goal. Almost \$8K was received via tax offsets. Michelle noted that September's collections and the number of Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) received were pretty consistent with those of previous months during the pandemic. Although overall collections to-date for the current fiscal year (FY21) were lower than in the previous fiscal year (FY20), receipts from tax offsets were up a little in FY21, compared to the same period in FY20. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through September 2020. The effects of the pandemic were having a definite impact on receipts from the courts, and all of CCVS's estimated revenues were showing anticipated deficits. Chris Fenno was speaking with stakeholders about how the downward trend might effect their future funding from CCVS. Carol Brochu advised on Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) that CCVS had received to cover pandemic-related technology needs, staff unemployment during the spring shutdown, and grants to programs. Carol reports CRF expenses to the state's Dept. of Administration each month. She noted that "Loss of Revenue" was not an allowable expense for CRF funds, but that could change, which would be helpful. Chris Fenno advised that the management team was developing systems in case staff had to return entirely to remote working; and related technology was being put in place. Chris Fenno was also working with grants staff and stakeholders to determine the future of the Human Trafficking grant programs. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:48 PM

### **Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:**

**Monday,  
December 7, 2020  
1:30 PM**

**Via Zoom Meeting**