

**Center for Crime Victim Services  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2021**

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM.

**REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of March 8, 2021 and April 19, 2021, and unanimously approved them as presented.

**COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT**

Abby Gladstone-Strobel presented the Compensation reports for March and April 2021. Claims related to Domestic Violence and Homicide continued to be high. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION of PROPOSED INCREASE TO COUNSELING CAP**

Carol Morgan presented information on proposed increases to the Mental Health Policy counseling caps for the Victims Compensation and Sexual Assault Programs. A significant number of counselors have balked at the current rates paid by the programs, and staff thought an increase to the payment caps would help across-the-board. Susan Ide agreed, based on her own work experience that it was currently difficult for anyone to find a therapist. Jerry O’Neill motioned to approve all three proposed increases, Susan Ide seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to raise all three counseling caps.

**RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT**

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) through April 2021. Statewide, the RU received 51 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) in April, which was the greatest monthly number since March 2020 when the pandemic shutdown began. Although collections for April were \$4K short of that month’s goal, both February and March collections had exceeded their monthly goals. Michelle noted that so far, tax receipts were about \$40K less than in the previous fiscal year, but the deadline to file had been extended, so tax receipts for the current fiscal year will take longer to be collected. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through April 2021. The balance in the Compensation Special Fund continued to be a concern. The balance in the Restitution Fund was okay for now, and the DV/SV Fund still had pending FY21 grant payments that would reduce its balance. The Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault programs may need a bail-out to balance their FY21 grants, and may

require a budget adjustment next fiscal year. Carol was anticipating that year-end revenues for FY21 would be less than originally estimated. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

#### **CENTER UPDATE**

Chris Fenno updated the Board on several issues and thanked everyone who had worked on the April 19 Annual Meeting. She noted that the Human Trafficking (HT) grant would expire on Sept. 30, 2021, and C CVS was in conversations with the state police, regarding a possible agreement to apply for a second HT grant.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:39 PM

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made, seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to cancel the scheduled Executive Session.

**Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:**  
**(June meeting was cancelled)**

**Monday,  
July 12, 2021  
1:30 PM**