

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Carr, Richard Katzman, Susan Ide, Alycia Post.

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Jodie Bacon, Anna Harrington, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Maria Gibbs.

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

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of January 8, 2024, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Carol Morgan presented the Compensation report for January 2024. A total of 42 regular claims were received, compared to 30 the previous January. A total of 15 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 19 received the previous January. Year-to-date, regular claims had increased 5.25% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Year-to-date SA claims had increased 2.59% compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year.

The largest compensation expenses for January 2024 were related to Homicide, followed by Simple Assault. Year-to-date, compensation expenses for regular claims were about \$13,500 less in the current fiscal year (FY24) than at the same point in the previous fiscal year (FY23). Year-to-date SA expenses were approximately \$4,000 less than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented the Restitution Unit (RU) reports for January 2024. A total of 98 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number coming from Chittenden County (38) and Bennington County (25). Bennington's number was higher than usual for that county, however Michelle noted that one offender there was responsible for multiple RJOs. January's collections by the RU's Case Managers were a little over \$41K, and no funds came in via tax offsets that month. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through January 2024. Monthly revenues into CCVS's two special funds (the Victims Compensation Fund and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence Fund: DV/SV) were falling short of what the state's Joint Fiscal Office had projected for this fiscal year (FY24). Based on the actual revenues, Carol was projecting decreased FY24 revenues at fiscal year-end (end of June 2024), but she noted that the special funds currently had healthy balances, with the exception of the DV/SV Fund.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on a variety of issues. Jenn was happy to announce that the state Senate had passed the bill to provide child-victims of physical abuse with the same legal protections as child-victims of sexual abuse. The bill was now waiting for House approval to become law. Jenn remarked that CCVS was being asked to weigh-in on lot of bills recently, which meant we were being heard. She added that there was a new bill pending regarding Open Meeting Law, which she will keep the CCVS Board advised on.

Regarding the lack of increased revenues generated by the Joint Fiscal Office's (JFO) recommendations, Jenn would be speaking to the House Judiciary Committee to explore other approaches. She also planned to talk to them about new funding for Community Justice Centers (CJCs), because federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) dollars are used to fund 6 CJC victim specific positions, and the Center is anticipating significant cuts to VOCA next fiscal year.

Jenn advised that Representative Squirrell of the House Appropriations Committee encouraged CCVS to submit a budget request that would allow for the hiring of another Grants Management position, since the current grants management staff were overwhelmed with work and could not focus on all the grant opportunities they'd like to. CCVS has submitted the budget request and are waiting for a response.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.
Adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday,

March 11, 2024

1:30 PM

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