

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023**

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

Absent: Susan Ide. **Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Jodie Bacon, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Maria Gibbs, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer, Julie Frailey.

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 PM, with Bob Paolini and Richard Katzman present, and two other board members attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of December 5, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Abby Gladstone-Strobel presented Compensation reports for December 2022. A total of 35 regular claims were received this December, compared to 31 the previous December. A total of 15 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 21 the previous December. Year-to-date, regular claims had increased 15.20% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, while year-to-date SA claims had decreased by 21.31%.

As happened last month, the largest compensation expenses for December 2022 were related to Homicide claims, which often include travel and funeral costs. Year-to-date, compensation expenses for regular claims were \$53K higher in the current fiscal year (FY23) than at the same point in the previous fiscal year (FY22). On the other hand, year-to-date SA expenses were \$2K less than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier presented Restitution Unit (RU) reports for December 2022. A total of 49 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest amount (15) coming from Chittenden County. This was on par with the previous month, and Michelle remarked that over the last few months the number of RJOs has been steadier than earlier in the pandemic, a positive trend. In December, the RU's Case Managers brought in \$49.6K and another \$1,183.98 came in via tax offsets. Michelle noted that December is usually a slow month for collections, during which the RU rarely hits its goal; however this December's collections exceeded the month's goal by \$1.6K. Due to a winning lottery ticket purchased by an offender, the RU received a sizeable payment for an individual victim. Over the next few months, more money will come in via tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through December 2022. As in previous months, all CCVS funds continued to show declining revenues, although the fund balances were still positive. Carol reminded everyone that the more CCVS uses its special and general fund dollars, the more

federal reimbursement CCVS receives through the VOCA Compensation grant award. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the board on numerous topics. She announced that CCVS was entering into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the Court Administrator's Office, which will allow staff of the Victims Compensation Program to access the courts' Odyssey database and view police affidavits directly, reducing delays in receiving the information needed to help victims.

Grants Manager Gene Nelson had arranged for a hybrid training on equity and inclusion practices for CCVS stakeholder/partners and grantees who provide services to victims and survivors. The training will also include guidance to help CCVS and other organizations create federally required equity and inclusion policies. The equity trainer, Kendra Malone, would also be presenting at the Vermont Victims Assistance Academy, the same week.

Jennifer advised that the state's office of Building and General Services (BGS) was working with CCVS to consolidate leased office spaces at 58 and 60 South Main Street to enhance staff connections and lower rental costs.

Jennifer advised the Board on a number of legislative issues of concern to CCVS. Because funding for the 27 State's Attorneys' Victim Advocates (SAVAs) positions had been shifted from CCVS to the Office of State's Attorneys' and Sheriffs, a statute change was needed. A new bill was being introduced by Rep. Rachelson that would shift responsibility and accountability for the SAVA program to the Office of State's Attorneys' and Sheriffs. Another upcoming bill related to expungement of records would clarify that no criminal record shall be expunged until restitution obligations are ensured, so that the Restitution Unit can complete their work on behalf of victims even after records have been expunged.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Bob Paolini and seconded by Richard Katzman to go into Executive Session at 2:40 PM with Julie Frailey and Jennifer Poehlmann to discuss a personnel matter. Motion was made and seconded to conclude Executive Session at 3:00 PM with no action taken.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
February 13, 2023
1:30 PM
In the conference room at
60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**