

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2022**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM with Alycia Post attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of March 14, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for March 2022. A total of 32 regular claims were received this month, compared to 21 in March of the previous year. The Year-to-Date number of regular claims received was 294 for the current fiscal year, compared to 260 for the same point in the prior fiscal year. The number of sexual assault (SA) claims received this March was 18, compared to 11 SA claims received the previous March. Year-to-date, 170 SA claims were received, compared to 144 at the same point in the prior fiscal year.

Reviewing expense figures, Richard Katzman asked about the crime category titled “VAPO” which had a Year-to-Date increase of \$32K compared to the same point in the previous fiscal year. Compensation staff explained that VAPO stands for Violation of Abuse Prevention Order, and those expenses (related to perpetrators violating such orders) include costs for things such as security systems and rent or relocation for the victims. Despite the significant increase in that category, Year-to-Date expenses for regular claims were roughly \$42K less than at the same point in the prior fiscal year. However, Year-to-Date expenses for SA claims were \$37.5K higher. Combining both types of claims, total Year-to-Date compensation expenses were about \$4.5K less than at the same point in the previous fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for March 2022. Statewide, 43 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received by the RU this month, with the majority coming from Chittenden County. Michelle noted that this was encouraging and closer to the typical numbers seen before the pandemic. Case Managers had collected \$41K, and another \$76K was collected via tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through March 2022. Reviewing the Compensation Program’s expenses, she reminded the board that C CVS pays victims’ claims with state dollars for as long as possible each fiscal year, in order to receive federal reimbursement, which is currently 75%.

Reviewing income, there was a recent uptick in revenues from the courts, into both the Compensation Fund and the Restitution Fund. Although revenues were still below those of the previous fiscal year, the recent improvement was encouraging. CCVS had kept expenses down as much as possible, and our request for a budget adjustment was approved and received, which should help close out the current fiscal year in better shape, although there are still challenges. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann thanked Financial Manager Carol Brochu for her efforts to protect CCVS's budget, and noted that this was the first year CCVS had to ask for a budget adjustment. Jennifer reminded the board of ongoing challenges, over the years, regarding funding for the State's Attorneys' Victim Advocates (SAVAs) around the state. Despite the support of legislative partners, CCVS was not sure what would happen with SAVA funding and CCVS's role in administering it. CCVS and other stakeholders have concerns that if CCVS does not remain the holder of the SAVA funding, some victim advocate positions might be cut by a new administrator of the funds. As the legislative session wraps up, CCVS will be pushing this issue for resolution.

Jennifer advised the board of successful legislative efforts, including passage of a bill that will allow domestic partners to qualify for temporary living expenses through the Victims Compensation Program; and new bills regarding juvenile and youthful offenders, which will make Vermont a leader nationally on that issue. National Crime Victim Rights Week would be observed during the last week of April, with ceremonies on April 29.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

**Monday,
May 16, 2022
1:30 PM**

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