

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022**

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

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 1:30 PM with all board members attending via Zoom.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of May 16, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT

Christine Morrison presented the Compensation reports for May 2022. A total of 20 regular claims and 12 sexual assault (SA) claims were received this May, which were both fewer than received in May 2021. However, when comparing Year-to-Date figures, both types of claims showed an overall increase in the current fiscal year (FY22), with regular claims up by 11.29%, and SA claims up by 15.34% compared to the previous fiscal year. Year-to-Date expenses for regular claims were about \$19K less than in the prior fiscal year, while SA expenses were about \$25K higher than in the prior fiscal year. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

REVIEW OF AMENDED COMPENSATION POLICY ON TEMPORARY LIVING EXPENSES

Carol Morgan advised that the Vermont statute governing the Compensation Program had been amended to include domestic partners in the definition of “Dependent.” She explained that this would now allow domestic partners to qualify for payment of temporary living expenses. The Board reviewed the revised Compensation Policy on Temporary Living Expenses and Richard Katzman motioned to approve. Susie Carr seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended compensation policy.

RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT

Michelle Pelletier reported on the Restitution Unit (RU) for May 2022. State-wide, a total of 55 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received by the RU this May, which was about double the typical amount, however Michelle noted that some of those RJOs represented multiple orders for the same offenders. Collections by the Case Managers were \$48,840 this May, which exceeded the month’s goal by \$840. Another \$22K came in via tax offsets. Michelle advised that so far, overall collections Year-to-Date were pretty comparable to those in the prior fiscal year, however this fiscal year the RU had paid victims more than double what was paid out in the prior fiscal year. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Finance Report through May 2022. She advised that CCVS was still waiting for the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) budget to be approved and had one more month to receive the 2022 Appropriation. FY22 Revenues had increased in March and April, but decreased in May. By July's board meeting she would have more accurate data on FY22's year-end figures. CCVS had done a good job of keeping a positive cash balance despite challenges, but the DV/SV Fund would need close monitoring. CCVS pays compensation expenses with state dollars as long as possible each year, in order to qualify for the 75% federal reimbursement from the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Compensation grant. May's compensation expenses were largely paid with federal funds. Carol advised that CCVS was expecting a small increase in VOCA assistance funding, however we've been cautioned that it could decrease again. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

DISCUSSION OF CCVS ANNUAL MEETING

Jennifer Poehlmann went over logistics for this year's Annual Public Meeting. September had been identified as a good month for the meeting, in terms of staff workload and fiscal year data. The Board agreed and voted unanimously to hold the 2022 Annual Public Meeting on September 19 at 1:30 via a public Zoom meeting. Jenn suggested spotlighting some of CCVS's sub-grantees, and all agreed. Susan Ide suggested including one or more survivors who could share their stories; she offered to assist in prepping them and/or any stakeholders who are included. Bob Paolini offered to help, and suggested inviting state legislators as was done last year.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann advised the board of changes with CCVS staffing and the need to re-grow some significant positions. The Sexual Assault Program Claims Specialist had given notice that she would be leaving Vermont and her position in September, so that position was being advertised immediately. One of the Grants Managers had also given notice and was leaving in mid-June. CCVS had lost nine staff members in recent years, and too many administrative staff were currently doing work and putting in hours that they weren't hired for. Jenn praised staff efforts, noting that the Restitution Unit and Compensation Program staff were doing great work providing trainings on their programs to stakeholders such as Probation and Parole staff. Grants Manager Gene Nelson and Social Media & Communications Coordinator Samantha Talbot had created and presented a virtual version of the Vermont Victims Assistance Academy for this year, which went very well.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:34 PM.

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:
Monday, July 18, 2022
1:00 PM (earlier start for this one meeting)
In the conference room
At 60 South Main Street, Waterbury.