

**Center for Crime Victim Services  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2022**

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

**Absent:** Bob Paolini. **Staff Members Present:** Jennifer Poehlmann, Christine Morrison, Jodie Bacon, Carol Brochu, Michelle Pelletier, Melinda Meyer. **Absent:** Carol Morgan, Abby Gladstone-Strobel. **Guest:** Victim Advocate Amy Farr

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 PM, with Richard Katzman present and other board members attending via Zoom.

### **REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of August 15, 2022, and of the Annual Meeting on September 19, 2022, and unanimously approved them as presented.

### **COMPENSATION CLAIMS REPORT**

Christine Morrison presented Compensation reports for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), with a focus on the most recent month of September 2022. A total of 40 regular claims and 11 sexual assault claims (SA) were received in September. Looking at Year-to-Date figures, the number of regular claims received in FY23 had increased by 36.67% compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year (FY22), while the number of SA claims had decreased 25.40%. Christine noted that six homicides occurred in the first three months of FY23, and one of the homicide cases had many claims by survivors living in Canada, which resulted in large payments for travel expenses. Year-to-Date expenses for regular claims in FY23 were \$25.5K higher than at the same point in FY22; while Year-to-Date SA expenses were almost \$7.5K lower, for an overall increase of \$18K in Year-to-Date compensation payments for FY23. The Compensation Report was accepted as presented.

### **RESTITUTION UNIT REPORT**

Michelle Pelletier presented Restitution reports for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), with a focus on the most recent month of September 2022. Statewide, 40 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received by the RU in September. In September the largest number of RJOs came from Addison County, but Michelle noted that half of those were related to the same offender, which often happens. She remarked that Chittenden County used to produce 20 or more RJOs each month, but in recent months their numbers have been much smaller. The various counties did not all transition to the Odyssey database used by the courts at the same time and there have been some issues with it, although it has improved some things and allows e-filing. In September, the Case Managers collected \$45K and another \$1.6K were collected via tax offsets. Michelle noted that collections are generally highest each year in the months of March, April, and May due to tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through September 2022. For the current fiscal year (FY23), she noted that revenues continued to be a bit low, although the Compensation Fund had a significant increase in August, and the balance in the DV/SV Fund had recently improved. Hopefully, the fund balances would at least hold steady and not continue to decrease. Carol was preparing the budget for the next fiscal year (FY24) which was due in a few weeks. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

## **CENTER UPDATE**

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the board on many topics, including staffing issues. In recent years, CCVS had lost a number of staff and was now working to fill the vacant positions. Christine Morrison was moving internally from the Compensation Program to become a Grants Management Specialist, and candidates were being interviewed to fill her vacated compensation position. The Compensation Program had also recently hired a new Sexual Assault Claims Specialist who was working out very well. A new Training Director had also just been hired, who would be starting in November.

In honor of retiring Senator Patrick Leahy, Jenn had attended a recent ceremony that was very pleasant although attendance had to be limited due to the indoor location. CCVS had hosted a retreat for Victim Advocates from various organizations including the Vermont State Police, State's Attorneys' offices, and the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, with the aim to build better communication between the full spectrum of Victim Advocates.

Jenn had been speaking to legislators about the funding challenges at CCVS and had learned that a percentage of the Center's total surcharge had been going into the state's General Fund (\$7.25 out of the total \$47 surcharge). A report by the Joint Fiscal Office recommended putting that money into the Center's special funds instead. Representative Rachelson said she'd introduce a bill to move the \$7.25 into CCVS's Special Funds. The legislature was also looking at other solutions.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:15 PM.

**Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:**  
**Monday,**  
**December 5, 2022**  
**1:30 PM**  
**In the conference room**  
**At 60 South Main Street, Waterbury.**