

**Center for Crime Victim Services
Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024**

Board Members Present: Bob Paolini, Susan Carr, Susan Ide, Richard Katzman, Alycia Post.
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Poehlmann, Carol Morgan, Jodie Bacon, Maria Gibbs, Anna Harrington, Michelle Pelletier, Carol Brochu, Melinda Meyer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of September 23, 2024, and the October 21, 2024 Annual Meeting and unanimously approved them as presented.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM REPORT

Maria Gibbs presented Compensation reports for September-November 2024, which were not presented previously due to the annual public meeting held in October and the holiday break in November. For the most recently completed month of November 2024, a total of 44 regular claims were received, compared to 38 the previous November. A total of 24 sexual assault (SA) claims were received, compared to 10 the previous November. Year-to-date, regular claims had decreased by 1.45 % compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, and year-to-date SA claims had decreased by 14.29 %.

The largest compensation expenses for November 2024 were related to Aggravated Assault, Domestic Assault, and Homicide claims, in that order. Year-to-date, compensation expenses for regular claims were \$4,500 less in the current fiscal year (FY25) than at the same point in the previous fiscal year (FY24). Year-to-date SA expenses were \$11,745.00 higher 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 September-November 2024, which were not presented previously due to the annual public meeting held in October and the holiday break in November. For the most recently completed month of November 2024, a total of 114 Restitution Judgement Orders (RJOs) were received from around the state, with the largest number (35 RJOs) coming from Chittenden County, followed by 14 RJOs from Orleans County and 14 RJOs from Rutland County. November collections by the RU's Case Managers came to \$48,513.94. Another \$15,197.86 came in via tax offsets. The Restitution Report was accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Carol Brochu presented the Financial Report through November 2024. She noted that C CVS was finally seeing some increased revenues, and the DV/SV Fund balance was slightly higher than at the same point in the previous fiscal year. However, as she tracks what's coming in and going out, she noted that this fiscal year's revenues were not keeping up with expenditures. The red figures shown "Accrued Fund Balance" were of concern for the Compensation Fund, the Restitution Fund, and the DV/SV Fund as the

figures indicated that current revenues were not enough to support estimated expenditures for each fund. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

CENTER UPDATE

Jennifer Poehlmann updated the Board on several issues. CCVS staff were working on strategic planning with a facilitator, and expected to have revised Vision and Mission statements ready in January. Advertising was in progress to fill three vacancies for the following positions: Compensation Program Manager; Grants Manager; and Restitution Case Manager.

Regarding budget issues, Jenn advised that CCVS was looking to borrow ideas from Maryland's model, including asking the Legislature to commit a baseline amount toward funding victim services. She noted that CCVS's Compensation Fund has historically contributed funds from the Compensation Program Special Fund to partially support two positions at the non-profit organization VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Going forward, CCVS will not be able to continue funding those positions. One of the positions is the Coordinator for the Supervised Visitation Programs and the other is the co-chair of the Domestic Violence Council. Regarding policy issues, Jenn remarked that CCVS was hoping to revise the statutes regarding compensation to "intervenors" during crimes, to require physical injury, since compensating intervenors for emotional trauma has become unsustainable. CCVS was also working on clarifying victims' rights, post-conviction, since currently there is no right to be heard, only notified.

SCHEDULE 2025 BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board agreed on the following meeting dates for 2025. All are Mondays. All start at 1:30 PM.

January 13

Feb. 10

March 10

April 7

May 5

June 9

July 7

August 4

September 8

October 6

December 1, 2025 (there is no meeting in November)

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

Next VCCVS Board Meeting Date:

Monday, January 13, 2025

1:30PM

**Virtual by Zoom and in the
conference room at**

60 South Main Street, Waterbury.