

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – January 10, 2011
MINUTES

Frank Rhodes, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. on January 10, 2011, in the Seventh Floor Conference Room, Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Present:

Commission Members:

Ralph Mason
Frank Ochberg
Jan Praefke
Frank Rhodes

Staff Members:

Beth Adcock, Program Specialist
Jeanie Cox, Secretary
Christine Lau, Senior Analyst
James McCurtis, Manager
Janine Washburn, Program Specialist

Laura Moody, Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Rhodes moved, supported by Ms. Praefke, to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting, with one correction. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. McCurtis is the new Manager for the Crime Victim Services Commission.

Mr. McCurtis reported the Director position, which John Hubinger filled, is still vacant. Mr. Hubinger retired as of January 1, 2011.

Mr. McCurtis stated there would be a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. in memory of the shooting victims in Arizona.

Also, Mr. McCurtis stated that the location of the Commission meetings will be changed to the Lewis Cass Building. The Commission will be notified as soon as the arrangements are made.

Ms. Adcock reported on the new legislation signed into law by Governor Granholm on December 16, 2010. Public Act 280 amends the Crime Victim Services statute and takes effect on April 1, 2011. This legislation permits the use of up to \$3.5 million in excess crime victim services revenue in any fiscal year to establish and maintain a statewide trauma system. This maximum would decrease to \$1.75 million in 2014-15 unless the amount spend was reasonably proportional to crime victim's use of the trauma system.

Discussion ensued and Dr. Ochberg asked Ms. Adcock to explain the role of a trauma system. Ms. Adcock stated that, though she is not a trauma specialist, that it is a framework that will establish a geographic system of emergency care throughout the state. Ms. Adcock reported that Michigan is one of three states in the country that does not have a trauma system in place. It was reiterated that the trauma system deals with physical injuries, not psychological. More discussion followed, with the Commissioners having concerns regarding expanded uses of the Crime Victim Rights Fund.

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Ms. Adcock also reported that Public Act 281 amended PA 196 of 1989 was also signed into law by Governor Granholm on December 16, 2010, taking immediate effect. This statute increased the criminal assessments collected in Michigan Courts that support the Crime Victim Rights Fund. Felony assessments were increased from \$60 - \$130, Serious and Specified Misdemeanor assessments were increased from \$50 - \$75 and Juvenile assessments were increased from \$20 - \$25. Ms. Adcock stated that the original intent of the legislation was to assess all misdemeanors; however, there was an error when the legislation was drafted. As a result, criminal assessments will continue being levied on Serious and Specified Misdemeanors as opposed to all Misdemeanors. Documentation was provided by Ms. Adcock.

Ms. Washburn reported that Act 282 was to amend Act 223. The maximum award is now \$25,000 rather than \$15,000; loss of earnings and support went from \$200 to \$350 a week; psychological is now 35 hourly sessions instead of 26. The rate for a therapist is still \$80, but the psychologist or licensed physician rose to \$125 an hour. Burial is now \$5,000 up from \$2,000, with an additional grief counseling of \$500 and crime scene cleanup of \$500. Ms. Washburn provided documentation also. This change was effective December 16, 2010.

Report of the Members – None.

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Comment – None.

The next Commission meeting is to be held on February 28, 2011.

The Commission moved into the appeals portion of the meeting.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion, supported by Dr. Ochberg to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Rhodes, Chairperson

Approved: _____

Date: _____