

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – February 13, 2012
MINUTES

Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. on February 13, 2012 in the Third Floor Conference Room, Lewis Cass Building, 320 South Walnut Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Present:

Commission Members:

Donald Condit
Victor Fitz
Catherine Garcia Lindstrom
Jan Praefke

Staff Members:

Jeanie Cox, Secretary
Christine Lau, Senior Analyst
James McCurtis, Director
Janine Washburn, Program Specialist

Mary Greco, MDCH FOIA Officer
Raymond Howd, Attorney for Commission
John Lazet, Victim Advocate for Attorney General

Ms. Worthy contacted the Commission prior to the meeting to request she be excused from attendance.

Ms. Praefke moved, supported by Mr. Fitz, to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis reported that the Rules for the Commission are anticipated to be accepted. A draft copy of the Rules was provided to the Commissioners. Ms. Greco stated the next hearing for the Rules is scheduled for March 12, 2012. Discussion followed. The Commissioners requested there be a change to the wording of the rules pertaining to peace officers so it states “catastrophic and career ending”. Ms. Greco stated a third hearing would be required due to the change in wording. Mr. McCurtis stated he would address this matter with the legal authorities of the Department.

Ms. Praefke asked for clarification regarding “quorum” of the Commissioners. The Rules state only two Commission members need be present for a quorum.

Ms. Washburn asked the Commissioners if staff should pursue claims for peace officers based on the interim policy from the meeting of January 9, 2012. The Commissioners agreed.

Mr. McCurtis reported a bill has been presented to the House which deals with the Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to police report requests. Representative McMillan has proposed a bill that protects child victims. The department is attempting to change this bill so it deals with all victims of crime.

Mr. McCurtis also requested the Commissioner’s input regarding an issue with Hackley Hospital billings on S.A.F.E. claims. This issue pertains to an internal issue between Hackly and the physicians practicing out of Hackley. Ms. Praefke made a motion, supported by Mr. Fitz, to

uphold the staff recommendation to deny West Michigan Physicians from direct billing. The motion carried.

Mr. McCurtis informed the Commissioners that claimants are now given the option of a telephone conference should they appeal their denial and wish an Evidentiary Hearing.

Report of the Members – Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Praefke, to go into Closed Session. Mr. Howd explained the rules of a Closed Session. Mr. McCurtis stated it was dealing with a personnel issue. It was determined to be Section 8(a) of the Closed Meetings Act. The motion carried, and all individuals except for Commissioners, Mr. McCurtis, and Mr. Howd left the room.

Mr. Fitz commended staff on their presentation at the Prosecuting Attorney's Meeting a few weeks ago.

Ms. Garcia Lindstrom requested that crime victims staff attend the police chief's meeting and conduct a training.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – It has now been determined that a claimant does have the right to tape record his/her evidentiary hearing pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Also, a claimant has the right to have legal counsel accompany him/her.

Public Comment – None.

The Commission canceled the meeting scheduled for March 19, 2012. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2012.

The Commission moved into the appeals portion of the meeting.

Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Praefke, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom, Chairperson

Approved: _____
Date: _____