

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – May 16, 2011
MINUTES

Frank Rhodes, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. on May 16, 2011, in the Third Floor Conference Room, Lewis Cass Building, 320 South Walnut Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Present:

Commission Members:

Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom
Frank Ochberg
Jan Praefke
Frank Rhodes

Staff Members:

Jeanie Cox, Secretary
Caralo Johnson, Medical Benefits Reviewer
Christine Lau, Senior Analyst
James McCurtis, Manager
Janine Washburn, Program Specialist

Laura Moody, Assistant Attorney General
John Lazet, Victim Advocate for Attorney General
Andy Crosby, Assistant to Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom

Kym Worthy contacted the office and requested to be excused from the meeting.

Mr. Rhodes welcomed Ms. Garcia-Lindstrom to the Commission.

Mr. Rhodes moved, supported by Dr. Ochberg, to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis reported that there are two vacant positions in the office that are still waiting to be filled.

Report of the Members – Dr. Ochberg stated he would like to propose a resolution stating “We, the Commissioners of the Michigan Crime Victims Services Commission, who had the distinct honor and pleasure of serving with fellow Commissioner Lt. Ralph Mason, commend his service, his dedication, his good humor, and his diligence. Lt. Mason brought experience, judgment and compassion to his service as a Commissioner, elevating the performance of the Commission, respecting the professionalism of the staff, acknowledging the losses of victims, and adding to the fulfillment of colleagues. He will be missed.” A motion to accept the resolution was made by Dr. Ochberg, supported by Mr. Rhodes. The motion passed.

Dr. Ochberg also requested that it be noted that he will not be able to attend the next Commission meeting in June, 2011. Dr. Ochberg requested to be placed on the agenda for the July, 2011 Commission meeting to discuss the growing problem of insufficient attention by police departments to their statutory responsibility to provide reports of criminal victimization to crime victims. We, the CVSC, need to help our legitimate victim clients have evidence to substantiate their claims. If the police departments lack the funding to provide these reports, we need to alter our procedures or we need to advocate effectively for compliance through the executive and legislative branches of state government. Dr. Ochberg stated too many of our cases appear to

turn on missing documentation, and it is unfair to hold crime victims accountable for police department inattention. Mr. Rhodes recommended that staff look for ways that the Commissioners may be able to assist with this situation.

Dr. Ochberg also discussed giving claimants access to free legal services as far as private organizations.

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Comment – None.

The next Commission meeting is to be held on June 20, 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 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Rhodes, Chairperson

Approved: _____
Date: _____