

**CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**Meeting – February 24, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

Victor Fitz, Acting Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. on February 24, 2014 in the Third Floor Conference Room, Lewis Cass Building, 320 South Walnut Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Present:

Commission Members:

Donald Condit

Victor Fitz

Emily McIntyre

Brian Pepler

Staff Members:

Jeanie Cox, Secretary

Christine Lau, Senior Analyst

Jacqueline Manns, Medical Claims Reviewer

James McCurtis, Director

Christina Salisbury, Compensation Secretary

Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General

John Lazet, Victim Advocate, Attorney General's Office

Ms. McIntyre moved, supported by Mr. Pepler, to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis gave a report on the victim rights budget.

Mr. McCurtis - You asked in the past about the budget for the victim rights programs in prosecuting attorneys offices. This is something that Crime Victim Services and the Department of Community Health have been working on for the past, well it is 2014 now, so for the last three years, since 2011. Not with the formula or whatever per say, but with putting things in a row in terms of, you will see in this presentation, the survey, me going around and visiting with a lot of prosecuting attorneys and speaking with offices, victim rights programs, round tables, and all that good stuff. And so, we also put together a committee that looked at our methods as well. Just to, before I get started, just to give you a quick overview of how this whole thing comes about in terms of a budget. Well the budget process. I make a request to our budget department here in the Department of Community Health and they come back and tell me how much I have to work from. From there, it gets approved through my bosses up to the director and then the entire budget goes to the Governor and then is preserved before the legislature. This part, in terms of the funding distribution that's, you know, that's, the legislature doesn't approve that. They just approve the one big number which we requested to work with in terms of distributing it to the offices. So with that, I will get started. So, how we got started was I visited almost half the prosecuting attorneys offices and I still have more to go. As you all know, I scheduled some coming up in March and April. And we also had a series of roundtables that we attended with PAC/PAAM and talked about a lot of the funding when it comes to victim rights. We sent surveys, and we talked about this before as well, to 82 prosecuting attorney's offices. The surveys focused on victim rights funding for advocates. It also focused on overall office staff, resources, access to training. It had 41 questions on it. We had 57 responders, 25 did not respond. So we had more than, you know, more than half responded, about 75 percent if my math is correct. The survey was not a performance evaluation; it was to assess the need for advocates in the prosecuting attorneys offices. And let me just say this, the dollar amount each prosecuting attorneys offices received for advocates, that was what I inherited when I took this

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position and the way that it was distributed, that was something that I inherited as well. Our goal was not to make these massive cuts and start from scratch, and then start from Ground Zero and then build our way up. We wanted to basically try to “right the ship” if you will with what we had to work with. So we wanted to develop a new funding distribution that would work from this year forward. And we also took a look at other areas within the Department of Community Health that provide grants to different services such as local health departments, and the Office of Aging areas that provide grants, and I could go on and on about that stuff. Just to give you some examples. And also we looked at access to training for advocates as well. Here are some of the results of the survey that was sent out back in September/October. We asked if, you know, victim rights staff could attend trainings. 13 to 15.8 percent answered no due to lack of funding or they cannot spare staff from offices. Some of these offices are very small and only a one person shop, or 1.5 FTE shop, if that. We also asked about the level of funding, supported by the State mandated Victim Rights Act activities in their office and 29 to 35.3 percent answered no because they need more staff, mileage reimbursement, fringes and benefits. It is not fully staffed, what is not filled or what percentage is devoted to victims’ rights. So 14 or 17percent answered that the office has unfilled position, mostly of clerical positions. So we looked at the caseload that was one of the first things we looked at to determine this. Caseload and we also put some weight into FTE’s as well. As you know the caseloads are all determined by the Adult Tracking System. I understand that every county doesn’t use it but most of the counties do and that is the only common denominator that we can go off on because that is the system that PAAM uses for categorizing caseloads. This is kind of small, so I apologize for that, but you take the from zero to 500, we have a lot of counties that have that number of caseload there. So that’s kind of the graph or chart that shows how many of these counties individually, how many caseloads they have annually, typically on an annual basis. And the same for this one as well. This goes from 500 up to 8,000 caseloads on an annual basis. And so that is the chart for that as well, for each of the counties.

Mr. Fitz – Are these from counties that responded or just counties from your raw numbers?

Mr. McCurtis – These are our numbers that we had. We get this report every year.

Mr. Fitz – Gotcha.

Mr. McCurtis – In terms of caseload.

Mr. Fitz – Alright. Thank you.

Mr. McCurtis – So this is the funding tier group that we came up with. The committee, myself, and others in the department. I was given a budget of one million dollars from our Crime Victims fund. And, because this is from the budget department. This is what I was explaining earlier in terms of how much money that we can we request from the legislature and this is what we are requesting, one million dollars. In terms of the distribution of it, this is what we came up with in terms of a method. So from zero to 399 caseloads, we are looking at a 5,000 dollar increase and that is for 35 grantees or counties if you will. I am starting from the bottom up. 400 to 499 caseloads, we tried to make the numbers as even as possible, 6,363 for 11 grantees. And these are your smaller groups, the smaller caseloads. As the caseloads grow, the numbers grow. 500 to 999 you are looking at a 15,000 dollar increase for 13 grantees. 1,000 to 1,999 caseloads, a 20,000 dollar increase for 12. 2,000 to 4,999, you are looking at a 30,000 dollar increase, that’s for 6. And for 5,000 plus caseloads you are looking at a 35,000 dollar increase, and these are for 4 grantees. This is a one-time increase beginning in 2015, Fiscal year. This will be a three-year grant and we based that on how we operate with other grants and grantees that receive grants from us in the department.

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Mr. Fitz – James, can you go back to the previous slide for just a second? I just want to see where some counties are at.

Mr. McCurtis – And I'll break this down even further. This is really small, but I just wanted to show you a bar graph of how the caseload and what the swing is when we are talking 500 all the way up to almost 8,000 and the previous line from zero to 500.

Mr. Fitz – Thank you.

Mr. McCurtis - Let me break it down further.

Mr. Fitz - There are 82 counties or 82 grantees. What county is not?

Mr. McCurtis – Keweenaw. I'm sorry. Newaygo.

Ms. Cox – No it's not Newaygo. It is in the U.P.

Mr. Pepler – Keweenaw in the Upper Peninsula?

Mr. McCurtis - Newaygo.

Ms. Cox – No, it is not Newaygo. It's in the U.P.

Ms. Lau – Newaygo is near Muskegon.

Mr. Pepler – Keweenaw has Donna Jakelin.

Ms. Cox – Has who?

Mr. Pepper – Her name is longer than that.

Mr. Fitz – They don't even have a jail I don't think.

Mr. McCurtis – I believe it is Keweenaw.

Ms. Cox – It might be Keweenaw. Cause the prosecutor acts as the advocate.

Mr. McCurtis – I think it is Keweenaw. They don't have an advocate. They don't have an advocate. They don't use our funding because they are so small. So we don't do all 83 counties. We just do 82.

Mr. Fitz – Alright, thank you.

Mr. McCurtis - So the fifth tier. We started from, in terms of the dollars, we started from what counties receive present day and made the increases from there. To us, it was the most fair way to do it, instead of making cuts to some and giving increases to others. Because making cuts is just one thing we don't want to do. I think that would be unfair and it would create some anxiety. So we started from present day, what you receive currently and then went, then we went from there in terms of being consistent. Again, this is small but if we go to the next one you will see how we broke it down. So these are the individual counties in the smaller scale that is zero to 399 caseloads and these are the projected allocations. As you can see, some of these like Alcona only have .2 FTE and caseload is 102. Huron County 311 caseload, but .6 FTE. So we put some weight, most of the weight on caseloads, but we also had to factor in the amount of FTE's these groups have. Alright? Fourth tier, these are the groups that have from 400 to 499 caseload and there is 11 in this group and we are looking at an increase of 1,363 from the other groups, so in addition, total is 6,363 per county. These are the allocations that we are looking at. So you can see a lot of these groups have one FTE and, but the, and the caseloads are somewhat in the same group, same area. It was, given the budget that I had to work with, it is probably impossible to have everyone on the same equal amount of allocation because everyone didn't start with the same allocation. It was all up and down and varied.

Mr. Fitz – Did some of those on the lower end of the allocation scale, are they asking for more or saying they need more than what you would give them James, at this time?

Mr. McCurtis – From my conversations with some of them, and I didn't talk to all of them.

Mr. Fitz – Sure.

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Mr. McCurtis - But from my conversation with some of them, they would like somewhat of an increase. And out of fairness, I think it is important to give increases across the board given that we are redoing this whole distribution.

Mr. Fitz – Sure.

Mr. McCurtis – I think it is only fair to do it across the board if we are going to do it. That's the most fair way, we thought, was the best way to do it. So the third tier, and this allocation is 15,000. Not much more for me to say except. . .

Mr. Fitz - A 15,000 dollar increase?

Mr. McCurtis – Yes. And those are the counties on the bottom there. And this is the breakdown, the chart. We had some cases where some counties had, I want to make sure I say this the right way, some counties had caseloads that were low but they had, they received more dollars than some counties that had more of a caseload.

Mr. Fitz - I see that.

Ms. McIntyre - And so there was a decision to not try to correct that in anyway?

Mr. McCurtis – That is, this is before we even ventured into this.

Ms. McIntyre – I know.

Mr. McCurtis – And that is why we said the easiest way to do it or the fairest way to do it, is to, If we had done it, just to start everyone from what they receive now and to categorize people for counties and caseloads with some weight on FTE's. If we had done it another way, and trust me we tried, where we would take out, try to correct the whole caseload and the numbers, too many counties would have been cut out. Too many counties would not have received anything.

Mr. Pepler – Your caseload is by victim caseload or by or by number of felonies?

Mr. McCurtis – Not by felonies. The ones that we receive at Crime Victim Services which are received from the Adult Tracking System through PAAM.

Mr. Fitz – You know, just looking at it, and I am being totally selfish cause I am looking at my county in this comparison. But by looking at Tuscola, which is almost identical population and the caseload is about a fourth less than mine, you know, they are already getting 13 thousand dollars more than I am. I don't know, if you keep raising it every year that is going to be a lesser and lesser of a gap. But I am just wondering if there is some complicated formula where counties like Cass that are maybe being shortchanged a little bit can get a little bit more than the counties that are already, you know, getting a pretty good, you know, probably justifiably needed.

Mr. McCurtis – And we looked at that. And we considered all of that. And the way that it is now it is way out of whack. The way that we are doing it this way is as time goes on will align. .

Mr. Fitz – Closes that gap.

Mr. McCurtis – Will align counties with each other as we progress.

Mr. Pepler – I think we gotta be careful of the reporting on a caseload or whatever, something's way out of whack. Cause Emmet County is, I have been monitoring Emmet with me up there in a small group and there is no way that they have twice as many victim crimes as Chippewa when I know our actual caseload is greater. So somewhere in the reporting we are not talking the same language here.

Mr. McCurtis – It is the same caseloads, we all get the same. . .

Mr. Pepler – I understand that, but there is something in the reporting that . . . They can't have twice as many victim crimes as I do. My caseload is higher than theirs.

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Mr. Fitz - You know Brian, it could be something as simple as the charging. Like for instance, I will charge four charges to the same file where some offices would charge it as four separate files.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes.

Mr. Peppler – Exactly. But something is . . .

Mr. Fitz – Cause it is more efficient to prosecute if it is all together.

Ms. McIntyre – My office used to do it that way, but they don't any more.

Mr. McCurtis – These are the cases that we get from the counties that we get from, I mean, that Beth Adcock collects from the counties that are reported to PAAM.

Mr. Peppler – I'm just saying.

Mr. McCurtis – I understand what you're saying.

Mr. Peppler – But there is no flipping way that Emmet, and it is probably like Cass and Tuscola, there shouldn't be that much variation around when you are charging cases. That, what, Cass County has more victim crimes than any other county?

Mr. McCurtis – I hear you, and I don't know.

Mr. Peppler - Something is not right in the reporting.

Mr. Fitz – Part of it Brian could be that we are exposed to urban areas like South Bend and Elkhart. We get a lot of crime coming up from there. So we get a lot.

Mr. Peppler – I am not saying caseload, but the actual number of felonies you have. Well, I'm talking. Well go ahead.

Mr. Fitz – I agree that the accounting is problematic. Just so you understand James, just as we were whispering here a little bit, when prosecutors' offices take. . .

Mr. McCurtis – They take one file and make it four or they will take four cases and call that one.

Mr. Peppler – Or I might charge a lot of criminal enterprises and criminal enterprises only counts as one victim, one case when it is actually 47 break-ins.

Mr. Fitz – For a victim, that is a much better way to do it because then you get all that evidence in at trial and so forth. But for the office trying to get funding if you did like Brian said, 47 different files, your numbers would be very different. But it would be tough to prosecute them.

Mr. Peppler – I don't even think criminal enterprise counts as a victim crime.

Mr. McCurtis – Let me ask you a question here. When you all report your cases you send those, you submit those?

Mr. Peppler – Oh they go in, they go in the same system.

Mr. McCurtis – The Adult Tracking System?

Mr. Peppler – Yes. I am just saying that you gotta be careful. It is a lot like our problems with talking to the Department of Corrections. We don't seem to talk in the same language. So, but there's just, I know, I'm just going one county, Emmet County has less felonies than I do. I know that.

Mr. McCurtis – Well all of these are not felonies.

Mr. Peppler – I understand that.

Mr. McCurtis – Okay, I gotcha.

Mr. Peppler – But I go count. So how do they end up with twice as many victims in that county unless it is charging. So we gotta be careful. We are trying to serve a victim here.

Mr. McCurtis – Absolutely.

Mr. Peppler – And I am not sure that that is the best way of doing it right now. I understand that it is the most convenient and the only way we have right now. But I think we gotta be careful.

Mr. McCurtis – This is insightful though.

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Mr. Peppler – Yes, and it makes me want to go back and be careful on how I charge things, you know, to make sure that something is counted right.

Mr. McCurtis – Here is the sort of. . .

Mr. Peppler – The middle tier.

Mr. McCurtis - And the snag in the system if you will. Genesee County receives for the, well for a long time. I can't explain why. I inherited their , how much they receive. 285 thousand dollars plus, ok? That is how much Genesee County has received for years.

Ms. McIntyre – They used to get over 300.

Mr. McCurtis – Yes, because of some work over here it got knocked down. But I had no idea how their system is so out of whack. I made theirs a dark blue because, as you can see, I put 20 thousand times twelve. I was not counting Genesee County in terms of receiving an increase because it would throw them way too far out of whack. Other counties would never catch up with Genesee County if we continue giving.

Ms. McIntyre - So they are not getting a raise?

Mr. McCurtis - So we are not looking at giving Genesee County an increase for this upcoming fiscal year. Alright? What we did was take their, in your mind right now the 20 thousand dollars, just put it aside. You will see where it went. But for now just know that they are not receiving an increase because when you look at this chart I think it is self-explanatory. So I don't know if anyone has a problem with that but the committee found that it was the proper thing to do. These are the allocations. Again, ignore Genesee County. And that is the reason why we feel like it is not going to, it will never, it's never going to be even for all counties anyway, but in terms of closing a gap, it will just never happen if Genesee continues to receive all of it.

Mr. Fitz – Brian, there's and I gotcha, I am looking at St. Joseph County which is right next to me. And they are the same size and they have got the same level of crime that I do and their caseload is far higher than mine.

Mr. Peppler – Just look at Genesee County with almost half a million people and 17 hundred victim crimes and then you roll down to Jackson with a third of that and more victim crimes. Tell me Jackson 's got more crime than Genesee County.

Mr. Fitz – Right.

Mr. Peppler – So something in our language is not right here.

Mr. Fitz – Could be that Genesee's has just got more unsolved cases.

Mr. McCurtis – And Brian so you understand what we did we wanted to take the caseload information that we received and we thought was the most fair.

Mr. Peppler – I understand that that is the only, in our maze of computers and reporting, that is the only thing you can go on. I understand that. But just common sense, look at those two. Or you can throw in Livingston County, you can throw in well no let's throw in Saginaw.

Ms. McIntyre – Monroe.

Mr. Peppler – Saginaw. You cannot tell me that the demand for victim services is not greater in Genesee than it is in Jackson County.

Ms. McIntyre – We know it is, I know it is.

Mr. Peppler – Yes.

Mr. Fitz – Caseload is defined by charged file, right?

Mr. Peppler – Exactly.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes I think so. That was my understanding of it. I think that that is the only way that that case tracking system counts. I don't think it counts unless charged. We don't even use it, but that is my understanding of it.

Mr. Pepler – I am just saying, we've gotta be careful.

Mr. McCurtis – So we took the distribution for the. . .

Mr. Pepler – The next tier.

Mr. McCurtis – This is the next tier. This is the first year. Alright? So we have Berrien, Calhoun, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Washtenaw. And I made a mistake. I called it first tier. But it is really considered the first tier. But anyhow, this is the second group if you will that has the 30 thousand dollar increase. We have six counties here that is in that category.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes, it is just hard for me to believe, is it that Genesee County just is not charging these cases?

Mr. Fitz – You know, cause they are short on police.

Ms. McIntyre – Because I know they should be in here at least. Wow!

Mr. Fitz – Yes, yes. What was your population of Genesee again?

Mr. McCurtis – It was like 425 thousand, 450.

Ms. McIntyre -Yes, I mean, much higher we know. The higher we go it is just riddled with crime.

Dr. Condit – Interesting.

Mr. Fitz – Yes, they are just not making arrests.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes. Maybe not.

Mr. McCurtis – Okay I made a mistake. I called this group Tier A. And this is 35 thousand. So we took the, and this is 35 thousand, so we took the 20 thousand that was for Genesee and we split it among this group for, basically put it in this pot here to give this tier group a higher increase, initial four counties. Can't see that, I apologize, it is dark.

Ms. McIntyre – Was it ever considered that Wayne County not get an increase?

Mr. McCurtis – Well Wayne County has, and that's why we weighed in FTE's as well. Wayne County has, and you can't see it up here, 16 FTE's.

Mr. Fitz – FTE is a Field Training. . .?

Mr. McCurtis – No, FTE's are full time equivalence. Basically full time staff.

Ms. McIntyre – By the way, just so you guys understand. This is only the staff members that have been supported in the previous, in previous years under this reimbursement. I have more than four people.

Mr. Fitz – Yes, ok

Ms. McIntyre – My County is paying. Well you didn't get to see my county. I wish you could see it. It is pretty scary.

Mr. Fitz – James, could you make it lighter?

Mr. Pepler – Yes, that's why we have it in the black.

Ms. McIntyre – So I don't know when we are looking at that the number of employees. I don't know who else is counting like that. Or who else has that same situation that I do where I have people that are not being supported at all.

Mr. Fitz – And they are paid by county dollars?

Ms. McIntyre – The County is because we don't get enough money.

Mr. Fitz – Right, and it does look like those other three compared with Wayne.

Ms. McIntyre – Well Wayne just gets so, so much more already than everybody else.

Mr. Fitz – Yes, two or three times.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes. So I understand they've got a lot of staff. They have been able to carry a lot of staff with that kind of reimbursement.

Mr. Fitz – And I am sure that there is a need there, but. . .

Ms. McIntyre – I know there's a need. I know there's a need. I have a need too.

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Mr. Fitz – That's the thing.

Ms. McIntyre – We all do. We all do.

Mr. Fitz - And my question is, with the new, is there more money, you know, so we don't have to cut Wayne to get you guys higher?

Ms. McIntyre – I am not even concerned about cutting. I guess I am wondering why they are getting more. So they are going to get another 35 thousand dollars and they are already getting 750 thousand. Or whatever it is.

Mr. Fitz – I think they are getting another 40 thousand, or, you are right, 35 thousand. Which would give you at least, that wouldn't even come close to putting you where you need to be.

Ms. McIntyre – Oh God no. But this isn't about me right now. It is more the big picture.

Mr. Fitz – Well looking at the population, you're not that far different from Wayne at this point.

Ms. McIntyre – Nope.

Mr. McCurtis – Is that what you want?

Ms. McIntyre – Yes.

Mr. Fitz – It does James, it does seem, with the, to take nothing away from Wayne. I am sure they need that but it sure does seem like the other three are way behind where they should be compared to Wayne. I almost think that Wayne should, Kym probably wouldn't like hearing me saying this, but it looks to me like Wayne should probably be treated similar to Genesee.

Mr. Pepler – So what you're saying is your victims staff, your four, they are reimbursed. . .

Ms. McIntyre – I have seven people, and one of them is supported in part by a VOCA grant. The other people the county is paying. The county is paying for all the fringes for those four people.

Mr. Pepler – We don't know about Macomb or Kent?

Ms. McIntyre – No, I don't, I think Macomb is better covered. They also have a VOCA grant. I think they've got some more coverage. This is a long story and James knows it. I am not going to belabor everybody here about why we are where we are at. But I am a little bit concerned about Wayne getting more money when they are already that.

Dr. Condit – Just caseload and FTE's. Already 400 going in. If it was a thousand or something.

Ms. McIntyre – Well why were they not treated the same as Genesee - Wayne?

Mr. McCurtis – We looked at their FTE's . They have 16 people that are on their staff.

Mr. Fitz – Which should we be looking at the number of cases that they have rather than the. . . ?

Mr. McCurtis – We put some weight in their FTE's also.

Mr. Fitz – Well what if somebody had a hundred FTE's with the same number of cases? Like the doctor pointed out. You have got Oakland.

Mr. McCurtis – I am sorry I didn't hear your question regarding the FTE's.

Mr. Fitz – Well I think Doctor brought up a good point. If you've got, you know, Oakland for just an example, their FTE's, a thousand cases per FTE, Wayne's they have 400 cases per FTE, it looks to me like there is all the more reason why you know Oakland and the other three should be getting the money because you put their FTE numbers, you know, more compensurate with what Wayne is at? If that makes sense.

Ms. McIntyre – James, how is the million dollar budget, how was that arrived at?

Mr. McCurtis – That's was from our Budget staff at, that has nothing to do with me. That's the Department of Community Health and what they calculated what would be affordable. I don't know the best way to say it. What would be the best dollar amount. Our Budget staff calculates our budget in that regard. Kim Stephens and Sue Malkowitz.

Mr. Pepler – Where does that come from?

Ms. McIntyre – Crime Victim Rights Fund.

Mr. Pepler – The million dollars.

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Mr. McCurtis – It comes from the Crime Victim Rights Fund. It comes from our fund.

Mr. Fitz – What is the total amount that the Crime Victim Rights Fund brings in per year now with the increase? Cause that's really the start.

Mr. McCurtis – Yes, and I wish I had brought those papers with me. We bring in probably between, and don't quote me and I can get this for you, somewhere between 15 and 20 probably million. A great portion of that is used for reimburse our. . .

Mr. Fitz – What we are doing here.

Mr. McCurtis – Yes. And you know our dollars went up in terms of benefits. So because of the number of people who are applying for compensation and the benefits package has gone up since 2011, or actually it was December of 2010, but it didn't kick in until 2011. And I explained this to other members of the Commission before some of you became Commissioners, but for about a year we had this legal snag over at the legislature where things was worded funny. So we paid out dollars before we were getting in the dollars to support that. This is all background. You know, funeral or burial costs went from 2,000 to 5,000, lost wages went from a certain amount. I used to know these off the top of my head, but it's been about two years. But we spent a year paying out a lot of those, paying out more than what we were collecting because of the way the law was written. That's when we did a lot of budget hearings and appeals a couple of years ago to make sure that they corrected that. And it was corrected. So now we are collecting what we are supposed to be collecting, and paying out. But nonetheless, we are still paying out more in terms of dollars and cents for compensation because of the increase.

Mr. Fitz – Is there a way to break down that 15 to 20 million to show us where that should go?

Mr. McCurtis – Absolutely. I have that paperwork and I wish I had brought it with me.

Mr. Fitz – Can you email that to me before the next meeting?

Mr. McCurtis – Sure. But our budget staff, they handle the budget, in terms of what they think would be something we could, cause we don't want to bite off more than we can chew, say three million. So in sort of talking with the budget staff, so we will say three or four million and then we don't have it. And so that is how they want it just to be sure there is something, enough to be paid out. But I do want to take your thoughts and things and I did write some of these things down in terms of Brian I know you are concerned about the reporting of the caseloads and the Adult Tracking System. So we will look into that and see. There is nothing we can do about it per say, but. . .

Mr. Peppler – No.

Mr. McCurtis – That is more of a, I mean we get those numbers from PAC/PAAM.

Mr. Peppler – I understand the basis and I understand where they come from. I am just not sure that that might be the best way of doing it.

Ms. McIntyre – Because, as he makes note of, the fact that there is something is not right.

Mr. Peppler – Something isn't right, blatant about the numbers.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes.

Mr. Peppler – I mean if I just applied common sense.

Mr. Fitz – We know our counties and some of that just doesn't make sense.

Dr. Condit – But if the numbers were accurate, it seems like the only way to distribute the money would be based on caseload and then the FTE's is a response to the caseload.

Mr. McCurtis – The caseload is what we are looking at. I mean that's what we are looking at.

We put a little weight on FTE's. But that's the common denominator here is the caseload.

Mr. Peppler – Well if that was the case then you would say an FTE shouldn't be. . .

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Mr. McCurtis – And that's why in the caseloads. From zero to 399, 400 to 499. That's why we broke them up into those categories. Cause that's what we are looking at caseloads Your Wayne County concern there is noted.

Ms. McIntyre – Well it just seems inequitable to me.

Mr. Pepler – Something.

Mr. Fitz – I would be interested in knowing.

Ms. McIntyre – I have thought that for a long time.

Mr. Fitz – What the caseload is, the FTE caseload per county is, you know. I would just to see what those numbers are breakdown to. Keep in mind, even though those may not be very accurate because of the fact that the counting system they have some real flaws in it.

Mr. McCurtis – You mean what is the. . .?

Mr. Fitz – For instance, Cass County had 760 cases and we have one FTE. So that means that person is handling 760 cases.

Mr. McCurtis – Yes.

Mr. Fitz - And then another county, if they've got 400 and they have one person, then they are handling 400 cases per person.

Mr. McCurtis – And divide those up. If you look at Berrien, you have four FTE's , so about three to four hundred. I mean. . .

Mr. Fitz - 650.

Ms. McIntyre – I know Muskegon, it has two and a half, with the highest caseload there.

Mr. Fitz – Yes.

Ms. McIntyre – Well and a lot of this has to do, from my experience being involved in this for so many years, individual prosecutor 's offices and the decisions they made, how many staff that they believed they needed and what kind of a budget, in terms of what kind of salaries they were going to pay these people. That is where you see what happened with Genesee.

Mr. Fitz – Yes, at the beginning they were progressive and it probably wasn't a bad thing to do.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes, it is a money past.

Mr. McCurtis – Well my goal is for this is to have everyone, close these gaps that were created in the past, close the gaps as much as possible. Okay? The second thing is we talked about the grant for three years. So our mentality is these are the dollars that prosecuting attorneys offices have. I don't know how you work with the counties and all that. I don't. I know some counties say oh you don't get this and that. But these are the dollars we can give you and this is your budget. That's the mentality that, that's how the system is going to be set up. These are the dollars that you receive for your grant and this is your budget. And then you distribute it however you see fit. This is where you see it. I think this is self-explanatory just from going through this. But I just wanted to make it clear.

Mr. Fitz – James, is it possible, not for general dissemination, but just for us, going back and talk with PAAM folks on this? Is it possible for us to receive this in emailed to us?

Mr. McCurtis – Sure.

Ms. McIntyre – Yes, cause I think the elected prosecutor would like to see this. Thanks James.

Mr. Fitz – The record should reflect though too that Mr. McCurtis has been very helpful.

Report of the Members – Dr. Condit inquired about the letter of support which is to be composed for funding to the program which would track sexual assault kits. Discussion followed, and Dr. Condit was advised to contact PAC/PAAM.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –

- A. Public Comment - None
- B. Appeals - Ms. Bennett reported that a decision has not been made as yet by the Supreme Court on the case pending.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2014.

The Commission moved into the appeals portion of the meeting.

Mr. Pepler made a motion, supported by Dr. Condit to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Victor Fitz, Acting Chairperson

Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_