

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – November 16, 2020
MINUTES
*****Approved*****

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. on November 16, 2020 on a remote Zoom virtual meeting.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Robin Hornbuckle
Brian Mackie

Staff Members:

Jessica Averill, Policy Analyst
Shalonna Banks, S.A.F.E./Comp. Analyst
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Compensation
Gail Krieger, Staff Attorney
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Leslie O'Reilly, Program Specialist
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Robert Spada, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commissioners members. Mr. Mackie provided an overview of the Crime Victim Services program and explained how the remote Zoom meeting would proceed.

Approval of Agenda – Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the November 16, 2020 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Mr. Mackie briefly discussed the new requirements surrounding holding meetings remotely due to the COVID pandemic. New legislation was passed last month with the following changes:

- Each Commissioner must make a public announcement at the outset of the meeting, to be included in the minutes, that he or she is attending remotely and has to specify the county, city, township, or village and state where he or she was physically located.
- The Commission must provide a way for the public to contact a member before meetings to give input on anything that will come before the public body. That contact information will be included in the posting.
- An agenda must be posted.

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Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales to adopt the new requirements to comply with the Open Meetings Act. The motion carried.

In a measure to be continually transparent and adhering to all Open Meeting rules and procedures, Mr. Mackie asked for a motion to ratify all Commission motions and decisions that were made at the June 25, August 17, and September 17, 2020 Commission meetings.

Ms. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Mr. Fitz to ratify all Commission motions and decisions that were made at the June 25, August 17, and September 17, 2020 Commission meetings. The motion carried.

Mr. Mackie provided the proposed dates for the 2020 Crime Victim Services Commission meetings.

Mr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to adopt the 2021 Crime Victim Services Commission meeting dates. The motion carried.

Public Comment – No public comments.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis said the Michigan Compensation Assistance for Victims and SAFE (MiCAVS) project is facing another elongated timeline. Due to the need for further testing on the new system, the project will be pushed back from its December 11th completion date. Vicki Laimon from the Department of Technology, Management and Budget is the Project Manager and she said the delay is necessary to reduce security risks and ensure the system is easy to use. The project completion date for phase one has tentatively been set for March 2021. Phase two is projected to begin in May 2021 at which time, the system will go public.

Mr. McCurtis provided an update on the first Navigator Pilot program training that was held October 20, 2020 which was very successful. The training covered racial equality and intersectionality to ensure that people know how to work with people from different backgrounds. The two-year pilot program is being conducted in Genesee, Muskegon, Ogemaw, Wayne, Alcona, Iosco and Presque Isle Counties. Shalonna Banks said she met with Navigators in a follow up session one week later with Janine Washburn and Emily Ely to determine ways to make the training more effective. Janine Washburn said there has been an increase in the number of applications in counties where the navigators are working, which demonstrates the program is working.

The Mass Violence Response Program posted a virtual training on the Michigan Victim Advocacy Network (MiVAN) for mass violence response advocates. So far, about 70 advocates have viewed the training to maintain their certification and learn how to respond to victims of a mass violence incident in a victim centered manner.

Ms. Cain said she is excited about the Navigator program. Staff at the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) have been very supportive in providing input and assisting with training. She said the compensation staff has total confidence in Vicki Laimon that the Navigation program will soon be operational.

Ms. Cain spoke about the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program. She said the Division of Victim Services will need to spend out \$100 million dollars in funding for the current year. Next year the funding will drop by half. The following year, funding will drop to \$30 million.

Leslie O'Reilly and Gail Krieger provided a brief overview of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The Crime Victims Fund is a federal fund established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 and is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders. A portion of the fund is distributed by formula to states to support Crime Victim Assistance Grants. Another portion is also distributed to States for crime victim compensation.

Report of the Members – Ms. Gray Sheffield thanked the staff for sending invitations to the “Sliver of the Full Moon” presentation. She said she also participated in other events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month with the Domestic Violence Task Force for the City of Detroit.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business -

A. Appeals - None.

Ms. Gray Sheffield, made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle, to go into a closed session for the appeals portion of the meeting. The motion carried.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2020.

Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt