

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting - September 21, 2020
MINUTES

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 21, 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
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Compensation
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General

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 - Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Fitz to approve the September 21, 2020 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Public Minutes - Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the public minutes from the August 17, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Closed Minutes - Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the closed minutes from the August 17, 2020 meeting. The motion carried.

Public Comment - Michael Christy from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan (CACs) thanked the Crime Victim Services Commission for its support.

Staff Report - Mr. McCurtis provided an update on the Navigator pilot program that is scheduled for October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2022 in Alpena, Alcona, Presque Isle, Iosco, Genesee, Muskegon, Ogema, and Wayne Counties. It will be a benefit to stakeholders and the general public by assisting crime victims apply for crime victim benefits. A Navigator would help eliminate the frustration of crime victims. This is a two-year, 2.1-million-dollar project that will hopefully be successful and become a permanent fixture for the state to help victims with compensation applications. The first training will be held on October 21, 2020.

Ms. Cain said the Navigator program will take the level of compensation work that can be done in prosecutor's offices to a new level. She thanked Mr. McCurtis, Ms. Banks, Ms. Ely, and Ms. Washburn for their hard work in setting up the Navigator program.

Mr. McCurtis said MI-Vine has a new enhanced system which was implemented in June and became statewide in July. MI-Vine is now a phone app which has a provider directory. A victim can register on MI-Vine to receive notifications on offender, jail or court events through email, texts, or phone. A provider directory helps victims find services and resources in their area.

The compensation computer system should be finished by December 11, 2020. Most of all the needs should be met by that date. It has been a tremendous amount of work since 2012 to set up the system. Mr. McCurtis said that the system was set up with the help of Ms. Banks, Ms. Ely and Ms. Washburn as well as the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB).

D. Cain said this month will be busy with closing and opening a new fiscal year. She said that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Report of the Members - Mr. Fitz said he appreciates all the hard work that D. Cain, Mr. McCurtis, and the rest of the staff members perform.

Mr. Mackie said that he has issued his first subpoena to a police agency for a police report. He said if there is not voluntary compliance then Ms. Bennett from the Attorney General's office will figure out a plan for enforcement.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business -
A. Appeals - None.

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

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2020.

Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt