

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – August 16, 2021
MINUTES

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. on August 16, 2021, in conference room 1A, Grand Tower Building.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield: Conference line
Brian Mackie
Robin Hornbuckle: Absent with notice

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst
Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Claims Analyst
Tia Johnson, Departmental Tech
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Amina Mohamed – Saleh, In House Navigator
Leslie O'Reilly – VOCA program Specialist
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commission members.

Approval of Meeting Minutes - Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales to approve the June 21, 2021, meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None.

Staff Report – Ms. Cain discussed the media campaign and commercial for Crime Victim Compensation. The campaign and commercial were funded with VOCA dollars that were required to be spent by August 31, 2021. A Crime Victim's Compensation commercial was created featuring staff and is being circulated via television, social media, radio, and other platforms.

The commercial was played for the Commission and staff.

Ms. Cain discussed having adequate staffing for the anticipated increase of calls and applications that crime victim's compensation will start seeing with the new campaign. Ms. Cain discussed the role of the in-house navigator position and the additional help this position provides to the victims. A goal is to have additional staff added to help meet victim needs more efficiently.

Mr. McCurtis discussed work on the new electronic compensation program. This will be completed in phases. Ms. Ely was chosen to be the primary liaison to correspond with HTC and DTMB regarding the MICAVS software project and is intended to be available as needed to help the development and implementation process move efficiently.

Ms. Averill and Ms. Povilaitis provided a summary of proposed legislative changes to the victim compensation statute. After further discussion the commission is supportive of the proposed changes.

Report of the Members – None.
Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – None.

Mr. Fitz made a motion supported by Dr. Fales, that authorizes the Commission's legal counsel to bring a show cause action in court, requiring the police department to show cause why the police dept should not be found in contempt of court for failing to comply with the subpoena issued by the Commission. The motion carried.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021.

Evidentiary Hearings:

None.

Commission Reviews:

210191 - Nicole Zenk - Issue: Misconduct.

Victim: Michael Eastwood

The record of the claim was reviewed and taken under advisement. After due consideration and discussion, Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales to rescind the original denial, and award the claim for 50 % reduction of eligible expenses. The motion carried. (MCL 18.361)

Update:

190402 – Shawana Henderson – Issue: Self defense

Victim: Mark Covington

The record of the claim was reviewed and taken under advisement. Further information from Genessee County prosecutor's office is required. After due consideration and discussion, Mr. Fitz made a motion supported by Dr. Fales to table this for 90 days for Katherine Bennett to review for further action. The motion carried. (MCL 18.360)

Mr. Mackie adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tia Johnson