

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION

Meeting – June 21, 2021

MINUTES

*****APPROVED*****

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on June 21, 2021 on a remote Zoom virtual meeting.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Robin Hornbuckle
Brian Mackie

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
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commission 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 June 21, 2021 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Open Session Minutes - Ms. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the open session minutes from the May 17, 2021 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment - None.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis said he will be meeting with the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) to talk about the mass violence response program. This information will be discussed the next Crime Victim Services Commission meeting in July.

Mr. McCurtis is currently looking to hire an in-house Navigator in the next few weeks to work within the Division of Victim Services to ensure victims get the help and resources they need. Ms. Banks said the initial Navigator pilot program is in its last quarter. Two Navigators have left their positions, but there are two new Navigators who have taken over the role. Five Navigators have been completely trained in Wayne County and now up and running. A survey has been finalized for distribution to victims that utilize the Navigator program to find out what can be improved upon. The Navigator program will hopefully be rolled out to other counties in 2022. Ms. Cain said she would like to eventually roll out the Navigator program to prosecutor offices across the state.

Ms. Cain said there are one-time short-term funds that will expire September 30th. These funds are being used to reach out to victims using various forms of media to increase their awareness of compensation. A public relations firm that MDHHS uses is helping to selectively reach out to target populations.

There has been a series of workshops by the National Association of Compensation Administrators. These workshops have revealed how Michigan compares to other states regarding compensation. Michigan has fewer than half the compensation staff of most states, so funding is being sought to upgrade staff numbers to effectively promote compensation services.

A mass violence response program is currently being set up. In the event of a mass casualty event in Michigan it is important to be prepared as possible. A pilot mass violence response program is now in place to test before going statewide.

Ms. Cain said Directors were given the choice whether to return to the Grand Tower Building on July 12th. Most of DVS staff will continue to work remotely through Labor Day. Future staff work locations will then be determined.

Ms. Washburn introduced the new Departmental Tech, Tia Johnson, who will be handling future Crime Victim Services Commission meetings.

Report of the Members – Dr. Fales said he was at Yellowstone National Park to conduct a training during the May 17th CVSC meeting. As part of his academic job with Western Michigan University he is helping direct the medical services for Yellowstone National Park Emergency Medical Services.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business - None.

Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales, to go into a closed session. The motion carried.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2021.

Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt