

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION

Meeting – November 15, 2021

MINUTES

DRAFT

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. on November 15, 2021, in conference room 1A, Grand Tower Building.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Brian Mackie, Chairman
Robin Hornbuckle

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst – Present for phone call
Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Tia Johnson, Departmental Tech
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney- Present for phone call
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Karen Gray-Sheffield to approve the October 18, 2021, meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis introduced the new brochure and posters to the Commission members explaining the new updates that include the new phone number and fax number. Ms. Cain informed the commission Ms. Jordan Kennedy would be attending the next meeting and providing metrics for the campaign.

Mr. McCurtis provided an update regarding adequate staffing and discussed the two new positions that are in the process of being approved. Ms. Cain explained the process of hiring for new positions. Mr. McCurtis discussed a new kick off for HTC happening in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Banks discussed providing temporary housing to victims under the compensation program. The compensation staff has had discussions with other states that provide housing through their Crime Victim Compensation programs in coordination with their VOCA funded agencies and found that it is an impactful benefit to victims. The staff continues to work on how to possibly implement a similar process in our state.

Mr. McCurtis and Ms. Cain provided information regarding Appriss, the owner of MI-VINE. This started as a private non-profit to provide updates for the victims. This system was sold to Equifax and the program is now being used as data sharing where the information is being sold to different entities. Selling the data information can be detrimental to both the victim and the defendant.

After further discussion with the commission Ms. Cain asked for the Commission to address Appriss and the concern of confidentiality and address where we are at with the HTC system.

Mr. Fitz supports taking a formal stance seconded by Cpl. Hornbuckle on the project for HTC.
Mr. Mackie supports a motion and writing a letter to support completion of the HTC system.

Ms. Banks provided an update to the Commission regarding the navigator program. Navigators continue to stay busy and making outreach efforts to assist victims. July 2022, there is a new RFP and looking to expand the navigators. The goal is to give any prosecutor's office that wants a one, the opportunity to have a navigator. Expanding the program is beneficial for victims. With the combination of the campaign and navigators we are bridging the gap.

Ms. Povilaitis and Ms. Averill provided legislation update regarding information on HB 4674-4675. Ms. Povilaitis highlighted that the new bill substitutes added an effective date will not be implemented until 15 months after the bills are signed into law. She also noted there is no known opposition to these substitutes at this time.

Report of the Members – None.

Unfinished Business – Ms. Bennett provided an update regarding a settlement involving a worker's compensation case.

New Business – None

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

Evidentiary Hearings:

None.

Commission Reviews:

None.

Update:

190402 – S.H. – Issue: Self defense

Victim: M.C.

The record of the claim was reviewed and taken under advisement. Further information was provided from Genessee County prosecutor's office. After due consideration and discussion, Mr. Fitz made a motion supported by Dr. Fales to uphold the original denial based on the verification from the Genessee Prosecuting office that this was considered self-defense. The motion carried. (MCL 18.360)

Pre-Determinations:

220047 -L.S. – Issue: Sexual assault
Victim: L.S.

The record of the claim was reviewed and taken under advisement. After due consideration and discussion, Mr. Fitz made a motion to allow for adjudication of claim, supported by Cpl. Hornbuckle. All unanimous.

220048 – L.S. – Issue: Sexual assault
Victim: C.S.

The record of the claim was reviewed and taken under advisement. After due consideration and discussion, Cpl. Hornbuckle made a motion to allow for adjudication of claim, supported by Mr. Fitz. All unanimous.

Motion from Cpl. Hornbuckle and seconded by Ms. Karen Gray-Sheffield adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tia Johnson