

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION

Meeting – July 18, 2022

MINUTES

DRAFT

Cpl. Robin Hornbuckle, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 1:12 p.m. on July 18, 2022, in conference room 9-550, Cadillac Place, 3044 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202.

Present:

Commission Members:

Jeffrey S. Getting
Karen Gray Sheffield
Cpl. Robin Hornbuckle, Chairperson
Dr. Tolulope Sonuyi
Thomas P. Clement -
conference line will not be counted as quorum

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst
Tia Johnson, Departmental Tech
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst –
conference line
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General -
conference line
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services –
conference line
Janine Washburn, Compensation Manager -
conference line

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Dr. Sonuyi to approve the July 18, 2022, meeting agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes – Mr. Getting made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the May 16, 2022, open meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None.

Staff Report –

Ms. Cain informed the Commission on Ms. Twanisha Glass joining the Division of Victim Services as the Director of Grants and Contracts. Ms. Cain provided details regarding Ms. Glass' experience and the knowledge she brings to the Division.

Ms. Cain informed the Commission that Ms. Washburn and Ms. Banks recently attended an Administrative Directors Meeting to give a presentation on victim compensation. Staff is continuing efforts to ensure victim services programs know how to help victims and survivors navigate victim compensation and will continue these presentations as we get closer to the new compensation enhancements becoming effective.

Ms. Cain provided an update regarding the Oxford school shooting. DVS and the compensation team are heavily involved in communication with the feds on funding to help this community.

DVS staff, Leslie O'Reilly and Rob Spada have also been very involved with the Resiliency Center and working with Common Ground to get this program started.

Ms. Cain also informed the Commission that based on a previous conversation at a CVSC meeting, staff are currently researching compensation funding levels in other states. As has been discussed, some in this community may be able to qualify for federal compensation, which is at a higher rate than our state reimbursement level. Ms. Washburn stated that currently, seven applications have been submitted for victim compensation from this incident and four of them have been approved and awarded funds.

Cpl. Hornbuckle announced she has seen victim compensation promotions as part of the Division's awareness media campaign in Southeast MI. She saw compensation advertising on a bus.

Ms. Povilaitis provided a legislative update. The legislature is currently on break, with primary elections in a few weeks and the general election in the fall, staff are trying to prepare for this upcoming lame duck session. Ms. Povilaitis and Ms. Averill are doing research on several recently introduced legislative bills that may affect victim compensation, especially related to the safer act claims. Staff may bring these bills to the Commission for their review in the fall. Ms. Povilaitis also notified the Commission that the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was recently passed by Congress to address gun violence.

Report of the Members – None.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None.

Evidentiary Hearings:

None.

Commission Reviews:

Cpl. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Dr. Sonuyi to go into closed session.

21R0267 – Issue: Sexual Assault

Cpl. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Mr. Getting to come out of closed session.

Update:

None.

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The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2022.

Motion from Ms. Gray Sheffield and seconded by Cpl. Hornbuckle adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tia Johnson