

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2019**

***** Approved *****

Members Present:

F/Lt. Yvonne Brantley
Jeffrie Cape
James Fink
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Sue Snyder
Dr. Cris Sullivan, Chair

Members Absent with Notice:

Hon. Thomas Cameron

Staff Present:

Jess Averill
Tonya Avery
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Debi Cain, Executive Director
Sarah Heuser
Jordan Kennedy
Gail Krieger
James McCurtis Jr.
Karen Porter
Angela Povilaitis
Lore Rogers

Guests:

Hali McKelvie - Uniting Three Fires - Against Violence
Kathleen Walker - Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center
Stacy Westra - Michigan Supreme Court - State Court Administrative Office
Dan Ziegler - Observer

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

C. Sullivan convened the March 1, 2019 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting at the Michigan Historical Library - Lake Superior room in Lansing, Michigan at 2:15 p.m.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of March 1, 2019 agenda and approval of February 1, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to approve the March 1, 2019 agenda and to approve the February 1, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion Carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

C. Sullivan welcomed new Board member S. Snyder who was appointed to the Board in January.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

D. Cain recently attended the first Crime Victim Rights Act Summit which was very productive and informative. Summit attendees included L. Hines, Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack and Justice Elizabeth T. Clement as well as staff from the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the

Michigan Department of Corrections. A great deal was learned about how to improve restitution collection for victims of crime.

T. Avery and S. Heuser presented the fiscal year 2018 annual manual to the Board. The annual manual provides information on accomplishments that staff of the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDSVPTB) have achieved over a one-year period. During the 2018 fiscal year, 185 grants were awarded to 11 different funding sources amounting to over \$19 million dollars. These provide for services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault including crisis support, counseling, advocacy and emergency shelter, Child Advocacy Centers, Transitional Supportive Housing, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs, a specialized unit at the Attorney General's office, culturally specific projects, and training for service providers and criminal justice professionals.

J. McCurtis spoke about the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). Victim advocates are currently being trained in seven individual regions across the state on how to respond to mass casualty events. Advocates from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Michigan Sheriff's Association of Voluntary Advocates, and advocates from community groups will be trained. Victim Services has contracted with the NOVA Project to conduct trainings across the state. Jeremy Hagerman was recently hired to work as a state coordinator for the NOVA project.

D. Cain outlined how the Division is using Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant dollars to provide sexual assault services to the 40 percent of the state where access is extremely limited for victims. Contracts are now in place for \$5.4 million dollars for new sexual assault projects and services across Michigan. To compliment this expansion in services the Division is investing significant time and resources into providing training opportunities to new grantees—some of the training will be mandated.

D. Cain reported on an effort to increase the number of Certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Michigan. It is a two-year training process to become a certified SANE. C. Blinkhorn is helping to coordinate funding to provide SANE training in Michigan on behalf of the Board. The Board is also working with three or four sites around the state that will be available to host SANE practicums, an essential and difficult to accomplish element for final SANE Certification.

D. Cain introduced new staff member J. Kennedy who previously worked for S. Snyder. Jordan is currently working with the Communication Action Community in MDHHS. She will also be updating the MDSVPTB website to make it more user friendly for survivors.

D. Cain reported on an adjustment to Michigan's STOP funding plan. The STOP Formula grant program allocates between \$3.2 – \$4 million per year to Michigan that focuses on criminal justice. STOP funds are intended to be used for working with law enforcement officers, prosecutors, courts and victim service providers to reduce sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. MDSVPTB staff requested an adjustment to the FY 2017-2019 STOP State Implementation Plan to allow funding to be distributed through a competitive bid process.

The STOP Grant Formula Grant Program may be used for 20 federal purpose areas which the Board has historically limited to less than 10 when distributing funds. D. Cain reviewed current funding priorities. She recommended removing that limitation for the twelve Federally recognized tribes in Michigan allowing each to determine which purpose of the 20 purpose areas they want to pursue when applying for STOP grant funding. The Board agreed to review MDSVPTB staff recommendations for the April 5, 2019 Board

meeting.

A. Povilaitis reported that she and D. Cain testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee to provide an overview of the Board and the Division of Victim Services. A packet of materials describing the Board and how it can be a partner and a resource for policy and reform efforts impacting victims of crime was given to members of the House Judiciary Committee.

A legislative reception will be hosted by the Board on April 17th in the Capitol. There will be a Michigan Crime Victims Vigil afterward in the Capitol Rotunda at 6:00 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

D. Cain explained that the Board administers a victim fund for Child Advocacy Centers. Legislation states that an annual audit must be conducted and reported to the Governor and appropriate legislative staff.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to acknowledge that MDSVPTB Board staff reviewed and accepted the Child Advocacy Center Fund audit. Motion seconded by E. Hines. Motion carried. J. Fink was not present to vote.

A. Povilaitis recommended amending Michigan's strangulation and suffocation statute, MCL 750.84 (2) to include suffocation by chest compression by adding the word "torso". She also recommended adding a provision in the statute that exempts medical procedures.

MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to approve the concept of adding "torso" or similar language to the strangulation/suffocation statute to capture suffocation by chest compression. In addition, the Board recommends creating an exception to the statute for medical procedures, including CPR. Motion seconded by E. Hines. Motion carried.

A. Povilaitis discussed SB 114 which would prohibit a warrantless entry of a residence for a search with the express objection of one of the residents. The Board previously opposed a similar bill in June 19, 2015 due to its potential negative impacts on the safety of adult and child survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

MOTION: Moved by J. Cape that the Board continue the policy that was approved in 2015 and oppose SB 114. Motion seconded E. Hines. Motion carried.

A. Povilaitis brought HB 4129 - 4132 to the attention of the Board regarding medically frail parolees. She agreed to bring a full analysis of the bill to the April 5, 2019 Board meeting.

Board members acknowledged that they had an opportunity to review other bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been introduced since the Board's February 1, 2019 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by J. Cape to acknowledge that the Board reviewed the legislative bill logs and there were no requests for additional information. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion carried.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

E. Hines publicly thanked L. Rogers for helping co-author an article in the Michigan Bar Journal on innovations in criminal domestic violence cases.

J. Cape knows of a case where a defendant stalked his wife electronically by hacking into her RING app and into her computer after the couple separated. The husband changed his official address on his driver's

license to his wife's new residence without reporting it. The sheriff told the wife that they cannot prosecute or file charges of stalking because that is the husband's residence as well. J. Cape asked if there are resources that she can pass along to help prosecute the husband for stalking.

Y. Brantley invited everyone to join the Bolt for the Heart 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing. Michigan's Bolt for the Heart proceeds will help purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for every Michigan State Police patrol car.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Walker, a SANE from the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center, said they had received a VAWA grant to start a SANE program through the CAC. She said all the work the Board has been doing has helped them to train their staff and they now have five trained SANE nurses.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by J. Fink. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary