

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 19, 2020**

**\*\*\* Approved \*\*\***

**Members Present:**

F/Lt. Yvonne Brantley  
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines  
Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Chair  
Hon. Melissa Lopez Pope  
Sue Snyder  
Matt Wiese

**Members Absent with Notice:**

Hon. Thomas Cameron

**Staff Present:**

Jess Averill  
Debi Cain, Executive Director  
Jordan Kennedy  
Gail Krieger  
Karen Porter  
Angela Povilaitis  
Lore Rogers

**Staff Absent with Notice:**

Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary

**Guests:**

Stephanie Beyersdorf - State Court Administrative Office  
Rachel Carr - Uniting Three Fires Against Violence

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A. Krause convened the June 19, 2020 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board Zoom meeting at 1:30 p.m.

**BOARD CONSENT**

Review of June 19, 2020 agenda and approval of February 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

**MOTION: Moved by M. Wiese to approve the June 19, 2020 agenda. Motion seconded by E. Hines. Motion carried.**

**MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to approve the February 26, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by S. Snyder. Motion carried.**

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

A. Krause provided an overview of the history and duties of the Board and noted the structure of how the Board meeting would be conducted using the Zoom video-conferencing platform. K. Porter conducted an "ice-breaker" series of questions for Board members.

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

D. Cain spoke about the difficulties and challenges of performing victim service work during the COVID pandemic. The effect of the pandemic has been enormous for domestic and sexual violence programs, sexual assault nurse examiners and child advocacy centers which have been forced to adapt. She said she is proud of the creativity of the Board and Division staff in dealing with the situation.

K. Porter provided an update on domestic and sexual violence prevention programs. She said adaptability has been key during this time of COVID, especially with partner organizations. Providing support to trauma survivors has been critical. The Division of Victim Services has been sending weekly updates to service providers with webinars, resource materials, etc. to assist with the ever-evolving nature of the pandemic. Organizations are having to reshape the way they do their work by reviewing all their policies and procedures to adapt to COVID standards. The use of technology to engage with survivors in new and safe ways, such as Telehealth and Zoom, has increased access to services for survivors. Other challenges have been difficulties in training newly hired staff, finding ways to fundraise, and accessing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies quickly.

L. Rogers provided an update on the history of working together with the Michigan Coalition on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM). The Division of Victim Services has worked with both entities for over twenty years in developing and delivering trainings on domestic violence, sexual assault, strangulation, personal protection orders, and stalking. Division staff are currently assisting in efforts to convert such trainings that are traditionally done in person, to an online format.

D. Cain discussed the nuances of several funding streams to help with COVID relief. Dollars received are assisting domestic violence and sexual assault programs for services such as housing, food, transportation and hotel rooms for survivors.

D. Cain informed the Board that Division staff, many of whom are civil service employees, must take off one furlough day a week. Level 17 and above managers have had to take a 5% pay cut as well as several temporary layoff dates. The staff have been remarkable dealing with the new work situation.

G. Krieger gave an update on child advocacy centers (CAC) in the state. In 2009, the Board was assigned to a legislative fund to assign dollars to CAC's. G. Krieger and M. Devlin are working to incorporate VOCA confidentiality rules into statewide CAC practices. Guidance and recommendations will be issued in the coming months.

A. Povilaitis spoke about Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-63 issued on April 27, 2020, that automatically extended the expiration date of Personal Protection Orders to July 21, 2020 for those that were set to expire between April 27 and June 1, 2020. Staff developed a MHDHHS guide and webinar explaining the executive order and its impact on domestic and sexual violence survivors intended for partners and service providers.

## **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

J. Averill asked the Board to approve letters to be sent to Representative Kara Hope and Senator Sylvia

Santana thanking them for introducing resolutions encouraging Congress to send COVID relief money for domestic violence victims dealing with the challenges of the pandemic and the stay at home order.

**MOTION: Moved by E. Hines to support sending letters signed by D. Cain and A. Krause to Representative Kara Hope and Senator Sylvia Santana thanking them for introducing resolutions encouraging Congress to send COVID relief money for domestic violence victims. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion carried.**

A. Povilaitis provided an overview on the status of the Michigan Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration's legislative recommendations, as well as other criminal justice reform bills. She notes that the chairs and members of the Governor's Task Force and their technical providers through Pew Charitable Trusts have provided regular information on the status of these pieces of legislation.

Senate and House Bill logs focusing on domestic and sexual violence issues were discussed by A. Povilaitis. Board members requested further analysis of Senate Bill 790 which involves making video recordings of court proceedings available to the public and Senate Bill 865 that is related to cell phone recording and access in courts. A. Krause said she particularly likes the explicit language in paragraph seven of Senate Bill 941. 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 26, 2020 meeting.

**MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley that members reviewed the Senate and House Bill logs and recommend moving forward with analyses for Senate Bills 790 and 865 for the next Board meeting, and to highlight the importance of the language the Chair mentioned in SB 941 . Motion seconded by S. Snyder. Motion carried.**

#### **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

E. Hines said that L. Rogers conducted a fantastic webinar for the American Judges Association regarding behavior of survivors and what to expect in court.

M. Wiese said in over 30 years as a prosecutor, he has seen the most interpersonal, domestic and sexual violence cases during the COVID pandemic. Second, he said the Board is doing great work with Child Advocacy Centers. He noted that M. Devlin put together an amazing tele-forensic interview protocol committee for the Governor's Task Force for Child Abuse and Neglect. Her dedication to helping children throughout the state is incredible.

A. Krause said she is glad to be back working with all the Board members and staff.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. Krause made an announcement to the public to type in their public comments in the Zoom question and answer box. L. Rogers read through the comments. Rachel Carr said on behalf of Uniting Three Fires Against Violence she is excited to have M. Pope as a member on the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board because she has specific expertise on the issues and complexities related to domestic and sexual violence that impact tribal communities. M. Pope said she is grateful to provide a native perspective on domestic and sexual violence to the Board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by S. Snyder. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted based on meeting notes provided by Jordan Kennedy and a Zoom meeting recording.

Michael Bobbitt  
Board Secretary