

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2020**

***** APPROVED *****

Members Present:

F/Lt. Yvonne Brantley
Hon. Thomas Cameron
Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Hon. Melissa Lopez Pope
Sue Snyder
Matt Wiese

Members Absent with Notice:

Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Chair

Staff Present:

Jess Averill
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Debi Cain, Executive Director
Gail Krieger
Karen Porter
Angela Povilaitis
Lore Rogers
Robert Spada

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

S. Snyder convened the December 4, 2020 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board Zoom meeting at 1:30 p.m. She provided an overview of the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and explained how the remote Zoom meeting would proceed.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of December 4, 2020 agenda and approval of November 6, 2020 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to approve the December 4, 2020 agenda. Motion seconded by M. Weise. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to approve the November 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by E. Hines. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair report.

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

D. Cain said the address confidentiality bill is very important for survivors. Jess Averill, Kathy Hagenian and Lore Rogers worked very hard to have this enacted into law in Michigan. The Division of Victim Services will work with the Attorney General's Office to offer assistance and potential funding during the current fiscal year.

Dr. Heather McCauley, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University presented her research on victim's and survivor's perceptions of accountability, safety, justice and care seeking. The purpose of the community engaged needs assessment was to understand crime victim's perceptions of justice and care seeking to inform strategies for serving their multiple and nuanced needs in Michigan. It was a two-phase mixed method study which began with qualitative studies to have conversations with victims and survivors to understand their experiences.

Karen Porter provided an update on monitoring domestic and sexual violence shelters and Child Advocacy Centers. The Division of Victim Services is legislatively mandated through the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board to administer, review, monitor and set standards for organizations that receive the funding that the Board administers.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A. Povilaitis provided an update on SB 1093 and HB 6255-6256 which are similar bills that would restrict public access to certain law enforcement records or court records. Under SB 1093, court documents and records made in connection with a criminal case that was dismissed at pretrial and in the possession of a law enforcement agency or a court must be made nonpublic. Under HB 6255-6256, if an individual is arrested but not charged with a crime or acquitted after a trial, their arrest record must be removed from the internet criminal history access tool (ICHAT) database and any document or record generated in connection with the charge in the law enforcement agency's possession must be made nonpublic.

There are a number of reasons to oppose SB 1093 and HB 6255-6256. One concern with these bills is that investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence cases may be negatively affected by reducing the ability of police, prosecutors, and victims to access an offender's complete criminal history. There are questions about whether charges become non-public if they are dismissed pursuant to a plea. There are also questions about the impact these bills may have on civil litigation and whether victims are able to access those public records. If the only way the public or the media can access arrest records is if there is a conviction, it could severely limit the ability to know who is being arrested in communities and how they are being treated by law enforcement.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to oppose SB 1093 and HB 6255-6256. Motion seconded by T. Cameron. Motion carried.

J. Averill provided an update on some prior bills the Board previously reviewed. She also discussed Senate and House bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been introduced since the November 6, 2020 Board meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley that Board members acknowledged that they had an opportunity to review House and Senate bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been that had been introduced since the November 6, 2020 meeting. Motion seconded by T. Cameron. Motion carried.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Board announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary