

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2021**

***** Approved *****

Members Present:

Hon. Thomas Cameron
Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Hon. Melissa Lopez Pope
Sue Snyder
Matt Wiese

Members Absent with Notice:

F/Lt. Yvonne Brantley
Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Chair

Staff Present:

Jess Averill
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Debi Cain, Executive Director
Maggie Devlin Wright
Karen Porter
Angela Povilaitis
Lore Rogers
Robert Spada

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

M. Wiese convened the February 12, 2021 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board Zoom meeting at 1:30 p.m. He 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 February 12, 2021 agenda and approval of December 4, 2020 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by S. Snyder to approve the February 12, 2021 agenda. Motion seconded by L. Hines. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by L. Hines to approve the December 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by M. Pope. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

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

D. Cain said the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board does everything they can to support the domestic and sexual violence programs. The Board is continuing to administer three types of COVID specific dollars that are specifically designated for domestic and sexual violence agencies, tribal groups, and Child Advocacy Centers. This funding allows programs to do things such as upgrade technology to deal with COVID-19 related issues.

The Division of Victim Services recently completed several Department of Justice audits. A preliminary audit report is finished, and the final audit report will be presented at the next Board meeting. An annual audit for the Child Advocacy Centers is being completed free of charge by state auditors.

M. Devlin Wright spoke about "The Children's Advocacy Centers Growth and Development Plan". This plan is meant to be a resource for children advocacy centers (CACs) and community partners on the local and state level. It has two main components. One component is the current status of services at Michigan's CACs and the factors impacting those services. The second component involves considerations for future growth and development of CAC resources shared with DVS funded CACs and statewide partners. This includes the Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan (CACMI), Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV), Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV), Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) and Children's Protective Services (CPS) Central Office.

In 2008, the Children's Advocacy Center Act created the CAC fund and named the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board the administrator. The first CAC fund awards were granted in 2011. In fiscal year 2021 a total of 28 CAC fund awards were granted and an additional six agencies received VOCA funds for CAC services.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A. Povilaitis asked Board members if they had reviewed the Senate and House bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been introduced since January 1, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by T. Cameron that Board members had an opportunity to review House and Senate bills of interest to the Board's constituency that were introduced since January 1, 2021. Motion seconded by L. Hines. Motion carried.

J. Averill discussed a memo providing an overview of 2020 legislative activity. Any bills which did not pass by the end of lame duck on December 31, 2020 are considered dead. A new legislative session began on January 1, 2021, which is the 101st legislative session for Michigan. The memo listed bills that were signed by Governor Whitmer and bills that still remained in the legislative process either in committees or on a chamber floor. Some of the larger packages of bills that were passed were discussed. Also of note, a large number of bills that the Board opposed did not end up moving through the process

J. Averill spoke in detail about the address confidentiality program package of bills. The Board has been involved with the address confidentiality project since 2014 when it made a motion to support it in concept. The address confidentiality program is meant to provide a shield of a victim's physical address by providing a different designated or state address to help protect

their safety.

Address confidentiality bills were first introduced in 2014 and 2015, but they did not move through the legislative process. Senators Margaret O'Brien and Rick Jones reintroduced a package of bills in 2017 which underwent many revisions and drafts before these bills passed the Senate, but eventually died in the House Judiciary Committee. In 2019 an address confidentiality package of bills was reintroduced by Senator Ruth Johnson which included many safeguards and strict protocols. This package of bills was signed by Governor Whitmer on December 30, 2020.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

M. Wiese said as current PAAM President, one of his goals is to refocus efforts on domestic violence prosecution. He said a workgroup was formed consisting of prosecutors and assistant prosecutors to create a draft of best practices for prosecutors on handling of domestic violence cases. The draft will be sent to the best practices committee and then the PAAM Board for approval. The focus of the draft will be on victim safety, offender accountability and reduction of recidivism in domestic violence cases. He said he would appreciate any input from the Board staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Carr said she appreciates the work that the Division of Victim Services does with Uniting Three Fires Against Violence.

Elinore Jordan from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence thanked Maggie Devlin Wright and everyone on the Board for their dedication.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by L. Hines to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by S. Snyder. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary