

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2021**

***** 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
Angela Povilaitis
Lore Rogers
Robert Spada

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

T. Cameron convened the April 16, 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 April 16, 2021 agenda and approval of March 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to approve the April 16, 2021 agenda. Motion seconded by M. Pope. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to approve the March 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by S. Snyder. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair report.

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

D. Cain said Sarah Heuser, Tiffany Martinez and Joyce Wright are working on extending the Safe and Together model training. The training helps show ways that domestic violence and child abuse intersect and how to be supportive of both child and adult victims.

A large portion of funding for the Division of Victim Services comes from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the Department of Justice or Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars. Both are currently up for renewal in Congress. A great deal of support has been received from the Governor and legislators at the local, state, and federal levels.

Fines and fees help support three key funds administered by the Division of Victim Services. These funds include the Crime Victims Compensation fund, a Child Advocacy Center fund and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program. It is anticipated that fines and fees may continue to decrease.

A work group was put together consisting of Y. Brantley, L. Hines and M. Wiese to discuss firearms issues.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A. Povilaitis discussed HB 4562 and 4563. HB 4562 would amend MCL 791.233e by adding a section allowing up to five years between subsequent reviews for dangerous and violent offenders. Under the current statute, a review process is initiated which occurs every 1 to 2 years when an offender has reached their minimum sentence and has been denied parole. Uncertainty about the timeframe that an offender will be released can be traumatic for victims. It can also be hard for victims to repeatedly return to court to advocate for continued incarceration of offenders. These bills will particularly help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and crimes against persons by lengthening the timeframe that victims do not have to worry about parole or the parole decision.

After discussion, it was suggested that section 10 of HB 4562 be changed to read as follows:

(10) The parole board ***shall*** conduct a subsequent review of a prisoner, except for a prisoner serving a life sentence, not more than 5 years after the review denying the prisoner parole, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The majority of the parole board finds that the prisoner's history of predatory, deviant, or violent behavior indicates there is a present risk to public safety, ***including threats to specific individuals***, that cannot reasonably be expected to be mitigated in less than 60 months.

(b) The findings under subdivision (a) are stated in writing.

MOTION: Moved by M. Wiese to support adoption of HB 4562 and 4563 and to make clear that the intent of HB 4562 as written in section 10, with may, rather than shall, allows for a five-year review and would not default to a one or two-year review. Secondly, to modify section 10a to read "The majority of the parole board finds that the prisoner's history of predatory, deviant, or violent behavior indicates there is a present risk to public safety, including threats to specific individuals, that cannot reasonably be expected to be mitigated in less than 60 months." Motion seconded by L. Hines. Motion carried.

A. Povilaitis reported on SB 337 which amends MCL 764.15c to include within the domestic violence incident report an indicator that an officer is investigating for a violation of human trafficking. It was

recommended to oppose SB 337 and instead request that sponsors and others create a separate form specific to human trafficking. Additional training on how to identify victims of human trafficking may also be necessary.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to oppose SB 337 and recommend creating a human trafficking incident report, separate from a domestic violence incident report, which could be carefully crafted to address all the risk factors and indicators involved in human trafficking for law enforcement to be aware of when investigating a human trafficking incident. Motion seconded by M. Pope. Motion carried.

J. Averill discussed Senate and House bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been introduced since the March 16, 2021 Board meeting.

MOTION: Moved by L. Hines 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 introduced since the March 16, 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion carried.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Pope said May 5th is International Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day. The loss of indigenous women to human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault is at epidemic levels. Until recently there has not been any tracking of missing indigenous women and very little accountability for the murder of indigenous women. Many different virtual events will be held nationwide regarding International Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day.

L. Hines publicly acknowledged the awards and honors recently given to Y. Brantley and A. Povilaitis.

M. Wiese said the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) adopted best practices standards on domestic violence for prosecutors at their Board meeting. A model protocol was also developed that will be available to prosecutors covering every aspect of how to handle domestic violence cases. He thanked L. Rogers for her help.

M. Wiese said a successful sting operation was set up in Marquette County with the assistance of Genesee County resulting in the arrest of five predators of underage children.

J. Averill said next week is Crime Victims' Rights Week and this year's vigil will be held virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Beyersdorf from the State Court Administrative Office said L. Rogers was a great contributor to a recent workgroup and that she also enjoyed collaborating with A. Povilaitis and J. Averill.

Rachel Carr said that Uniting Three Fires Against Violence is interested in working closely with the Division of Victim Services regarding any impact that legislation may have on tribal communities. She said they are also interested in learning more about the firearms workgroup and potentially providing an opportunity to connect the workgroup with tribes if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by S. Snyder. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary