

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – March 20, 2023
MINUTES

Cpl. Robin Hornbuckle, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. on March 20, 2023, in the Dempsey Room at the Grand Tower Building, 235 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Present:

Commission Members:

Jeffrey S. Getting
Karen Gray Sheffield
Cpl. Robin Hornbuckle, Chairperson
Thomas P. Clement
Dr. Tolulope Sonuyi

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Jenifer Williamsen, Compensation Claims Analyst
Emily Ely, Compensation Claims Analyst
Tia Johnson, Departmental Tech
Janine Washburn, Compensation Manager
Gail Krieger, Deputy Director
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Alicia VanEyck, Compensation Claims Analyst
Mary Selby, Navigator

Public Comment - None.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Mr. Clement made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the March 20, 2023, meeting agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of the Open Meeting Minutes – Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Dr. Sonuyi to approve the January 23, 2023, open meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Approval of the Closed Meeting Minutes – Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Getting to approve the January 23, 2023, closed meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Evidentiary Hearings:

Cpl. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to go into closed session at 12:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Claim – 19R0568 – Issue: Request annual medical verification for continuation of award

Motion: Mr. Getting made motion, supported by Ms. Gray- Sheffield, all voting in favor. The original denial of the Commission is overturned, and the Commission tabled the claim for four months for staff to obtain itemized bills, explanation of benefits, and a doctor's note.

Claim – 22R0565 – Issue: Claim was denied due to non-cooperation with law enforcement.

Motion: Ms. Gray-Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Getting, all voting in favor. The original Denial of the Commission is overturned, and the Commission tabled for four months for further documentation.

Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Getting to come out of closed session at 2:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Commission Reviews:

None

Commission Reports:

Mr. Getting made a motion, supported by Mr. Clement to approve the commission report for Claim - 23R0011 determined from the January 23, 2023, meeting.

Chair Report

Chairperson Hornbuckle encouraged everyone to attend the Division of Victim Services Legislative Reception held on April 19, 2023, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Heritage Hall. The Crime Victims' Rights Vigil will be immediately after the reception at 6:00 p.m., in the same location. Mr. Getting will be the moderator for the Vigil.

Staff Report

Ms. Povilaitis updated the Commission on how busy staff have been with evaluating budgets and finances. She also reported that in the aftermath of the mass shooting at Michigan State University, staff from the Division of Victim Services were very involved and went into immediate action in responding to this event.

Ms. Krieger explained that in mass shooting events, DVS is the main conduit for the funding from the federal government through the Office of Victims of Crime's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP). DVS staff were on the phone the next morning with the federal government assisting in the response for MSU. OVC is currently doing a needs assessment with MSU to determine long-term healing needs at the community level. Ms. Krieger acknowledged how Ms. Povilaitis was instrumental in helping connect MSU officials with federal authorities who can help in the assistance effort. Ms. Nagel thanked staff for the great work they did and for jumping right into action.

Ms. Washburn explained the current compensation statute only allows compensation to assist the eight physically injured students at MSU. Four applications were received and at this time nothing has yet been paid out. For the direct and indirect victims that can not apply for compensation staff are working with the AEAP to provide a parallel compensation program where DVS can assist with counseling, possible travel and transportation costs, or other needs that they may have. A condensed two-page application was developed to make it less

cumbersome for the victims of MSU. This was also done for the Oxford community. There is also a dedicated email for MSU response that is monitored by Ms. Ely and Ms. Washburn for resources and other information as the emails come in. Ms. Kennedy is in the final phase of developing a one-page flyer about the parallel compensation program and this will soon be available on the Crime Victim Compensation website, which has a dedicated focus area for the MSU and Oxford community. Staff will continue to work on providing responses.

Ms. Ely provided an Oxford update. Compensation has a total of five claims and just under \$15,000 total paid out for those five claims. A total of 20 non-physically injured applications have been submitted and those have been referred directly to the resiliency center. There have been an additional 18 non-physically injured inquires that came in to receive more information but have not been submitted. These inquiries have also been referred to the resiliency center, as will all such claims and inquires moving forward as staff works to provide a soft hand-off to the resiliency center for mental health services.

Ms. Krieger gave a funding update. The Governor has included recommendations in the executive budget for general funding for both the Crime Victim's Rights Fund and the VOCA shortfalls. Ms. Nagel is testifying in front of the Senate appropriations committee to emphasize the need for funding. Ms. Krieger thanked the Commission for their assistance to communicate the importance of that goal.

Ms. Washburn introduced the new in-house Navigator, Mary Selby, that started in February.

Ms. Ely provided a MICA VS update – The project is moving along excellent. The go-live date is still December of 2023.

Ms. Povilaitis provided a legislative update. Things have been very busy since January in the Legislature. Both the Senate and the House have fast-tracked a package of 11 bills on firearm reform, each Chamber having their own package and both moving at the same time. The package address background checks, safe storage and extreme risk protection orders. There is a lot to work out, but things are moving very fast. The Michigan Domestic Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board reviewed the packages and provided feedback to sponsors. This is expected to be the focus of the Legislature in the coming weeks. A crime victim notification bill was recently introduced and may be brought back to the Commission in May. More research and information gathering is currently being done to see how this would impact the work of the Commission.

Report of the Members:

None.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Katherine Bennett provided an update on Claim No. 19R0338, involving a worker's compensation claim. There is expected to be a decision by summer.

New Business:

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2023.

Motion from Ms. Gray Sheffield and seconded by Mr. Getting to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tia Johnson