

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

October 27, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Heather Thompson.

Members Absent: Ashley N. Mack, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, and David Young

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

Guest: Nafezza Hossain.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Nafezza Hossain joined the VSAB Meeting.
- Nafezza Hossain works with survivors of violence and is supporting the Board.
- Nafezza Hossain works for the County's Council office.
- There are four vacancies for the Victim Services Advisory Board VSAB.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Brian Koosed

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
The chair will call the roll to establish a quorum.
Members need to identify themselves when they are talking.
Members may be asked to identify anyone who is present with them during the call.
The public may be asked to mute the call on their end to avoid interruptions.
The public may be muted by the chair.
Public bodies might wish to consider including any ground rules in the meeting notice.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 22, 2022, meeting– Brian Koosed

- The September 22, 2022, Minutes were approved.

IV. Update on 10/27 Testimony to HHS – Brian, Neda, Rafiah

- Council Members Gabe Albornoz, Craig Rice, and Evan Glass recognize the Board's priorities.
- Questions from Council Members during Testimony were successfully addressed by Brian Koosed.
- Council Members were supportive regarding the Board's priorities.
- Collaborate with other Boards and Commissions to better assist the community.
- Council Member Craig Rice suggested to compile resources and present them out to the community.
- Youth violence has increased.
- Increase for the Victim's compensation Fund will occur.

ACTION ITEM: Board Members to follow up with Council Members.

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Update and Approval– Kathryn Pontzer, Neda, Brian, and others

- The Annual Report was approved by Board Members.
- Board Members were encouraged to refer candidates to fill in Board vacancies.

ACTION ITEM: Print copies to hand out in future meetings with Council Members and executive offices.

VI. Executive Subcommittee update - Kathryn, Neda

- Board Members will present Bills that may be supported.

- Bills have been researched by Kathryn Pontzer and Neda Bolourian and will be presented in the December meeting for the Board to support.
- Board members were encouraged to suggest Bills to support.
- Testimony entailed HHS Staffing, Victim's compensation fund and Bridge housing.
- The Meeting with Dr. Raymond Crowell will take place on November 17th at 2pm via Zoom.
- The Meeting with Dr. Ronaldo Santiago to be announced.
- Kathryn will provide an update on CJCC Meeting on December 1st during the Board meeting.
- The absence of Student Resource Officers SROs in schools has had a negative impact.
- Mentorships, guest speakers and informative lessons will be helpful to students and schools.
- Mental Initiative.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Kathryn, Neda, Rafiah Prince

- Legislative Lunch and Learn was an informative zoom session at the state level.
- Organizations shared Bills that they will support during the Lunch and Learn session.
- Legislative session regarding approval of Bills to support for 2023 will take place in the December meeting.
- Board members to write letters of support.

ACTION ITEM: Templates of previous letter for support will be shared.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah

- Reminder to share events at the professional and personal level out to the Board to show support.
- Leah Schwartz encouraged members to post and share photos for the Boards' Facebook page.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Social gathering between Board Members.
- Possible in person meetings in the future.
- Provide a list of possible MCPS contacts to invite them to the Board's meeting (Luis Cardona).

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

December 1, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM