

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

March 23, 2023

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Leah Schwartz.

Members Absent: Kathryn Pontzer, Reem Sharaf, Heather Thompson, David Young

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno.

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria Solis (Vicky)

Guest: Nazeefa Hossain and Rosalia Scotman.

I. Additions to Agenda

No additions to Agenda

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures – Neda Bolourian

- 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 February 23, 2023, meeting.

- The Minutes were not approved due to quorum.

IV. Executive Subcommittee update

- Brian Koosed shared that BAK (Betty Ann Krahnke) meeting was supportive.
- During the meeting with BAK (Betty Ann Krahnke) process work and assessments information were shared.
- Brian Koosed shared the County Executive Marc Elrich proposed budget with Board Members.
- Interesting data with sensitive value was collected.
- There is a gap in services and changes to fill those gaps were discussed.
- Shelter does not provide case management.
- Trauma services offers case management for survivors and victims of crime.
- Marc Erlich (County Executive) proposed budget summary under housing says that affordable housing “continue to house people and there is an approximate of 138 people who have been provided with housing”.
- Dr. Rafiah Prince introduced the new Trauma Services Manager Rosalia Scotman, MSW.
- Victim Advisory Board Members were directed to contact DHCA Housing and Community Affairs by councilmember Evan Glass.
- Dwelling unit housing opportunities for IPV (intimate partner violence) for survivors to gain independence.
- Hearings for testimony will take place 1:30 and 7pm April 11 and 13th at 1:30pm and 7pm.
- Testimony can also be submitted on writing on the Council web page.
- Leah Schwartz volunteered and will attend the hearing and will be presenting the Board’s testimony which focuses on funding and staffing for trauma services.
ACTION ITEM: Contact Commissioners to prevent homelessness HHS subcommittee.
ACTION ITEM: Dr. Rafiah Prince will set up a meeting with Board members and homelessness Acting Manager.

V. Proposed training on NARCAN– Neda

- Montgomery County Public Schools MCPS is pushing for NARCAN training and awareness for parents and students.
- The Victim Services Advisory Board members discussed the possibility for Narcan trainings for Trauma Services staff and Board members.
- Ellen shared some informational information about NARCAN training offered by Montgomery County Police Department MCPD.
- Invite speakers for support and recognize how their services connect to the board priorities.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Leah will follow up with Ben Stevenson for Narcan trainings.

VI. Proposed return to in person meetings discussion– Rafiah, Neda, Brian

- Victim Services Advisory Board members would like to have some in-person meetings due to effectiveness.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee Update– Kathryn, Neda

- Repeal of Spousal Defense Bill has passed the Senate and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.
- Victim Services Advisory Board members have submitted support letters.
- The Victim Services Advisory Board VSAB Supported ten Bills.

VIII. Updated Brochures and Other Materials for VASAP/APP/VSAB

- Montgomery County Public Relations is in control of updating websites.
- Victim Services Advisory Board members discussed updating their Board’s brochures.
- Trauma Services’ victim advocates are collaborating to update brochures for the Court System.
- Trauma Services Manager Rosalia Scotman shared that she will be meeting with the County graphic designer for trauma services brochures to be updated.
- Language of Board brochures should be updated.
- Permission to the change the mission of the Board on Brochures.
- Board regulations will be sent to all members.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Victim Services Advisory Board brochures will be updated.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Victim Services Advisory Board regulations will be sent to Board members.

IX. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah

- April 27th is the Maryland Crime Victims conference in person and virtual.
- April is the Crime Victim Awareness Month.
- Annual Memorial Service Ceremony for Crime Victims will take place on April 23rd, 2023.
- Share and Posting events on social media for the community.

X. Social Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Victim Services Advisory Board members who need to renew their applications must do so.
- There are five vacant positions that soon will be filled.
- Interviews for VSAB Victim Services Advisory Board members will be taking place within the next two weeks and three people for the panel are required.
- Victim Services Advisory Board members attendance and guidelines were discussed.

Adjournment 8:30 PM
Next Meeting:
April 27, 2023, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM