

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

April 27, 2023

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, Leah Schwartz, David Young

Members Absent: Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Reem Sharaf, Heather Thompson.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno.

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

Guest: Donna Becker and Nazeefa Hossain.

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 March 23, 2023, meeting.

- The Minutes have not been approved due to quorum.

IV. Victims Advocate Presentation – Rafiah handling introductions.

- Donna Becker victim assistance specialist for Trauma Services made a presentation on Victim's compensation.
- Victim's compensation requirements and eligibility were discussed.

V. Executive Subcommittee update – Brian

- Extensive exchange of information between the ICH and Board members regarding Bridge housing.
- Bridge Housing is a long-term initiative for the Board.
- County Council approval of budget will take place before Memorial Day.
- A new court system for driving under the influence has been established.
- Statewide project for Maryland highway safety to reduce the number of fatalities.
- Train police officers more efficiently towards speeders.
- Next Criminal Justice Coordinating commission CJCC meeting will take place on May.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Kathryn

- The Victim Services Advisory Board supported thirteen Bills in 2023.
- Ten Bills were introduced and six passed to the Governor's office for signature.
- Bill to repeal spousal defense for sex crimes passed.
- Bill body camera/ victim privacy made it to the senate and was introduced.
- The Sample safe harbor/ child sex trafficking Bill passed and was sent to the governor's office.
- The Sample child custody visitation/ child abuse Bill passed to the governor's office for signature.
- The Maryland State police Gun Center- Firearms surrendered Bill passed sent to governor's office.

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

- Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Brochures will be updated.

VIII. Membership/Vacancies

- There are four Board vacancies.
- Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) will be conducting interviews.
- Volunteers for interviews were requested.
- Leah Schwartz and Brian Koosed volunteered to be part of the panel for interviewing possible candidates.

IX. Annual Report – Brian/Rafiah/Neda

- Board members Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, and Wendy Ayala will help with updates on the Annual Report.

X. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah

- Honoring National Crime victims.
- Highlights of the National Crime victims' event.
- Homicide victims' families registered if they wished to participate in the event.
- Respect fest event for trauma services.

XI. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Contemplate in person social event this summer.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

May 25, 2023, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM