

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

July 27, 2017

Attendance: Cinder Cooper Barnes, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Parker O'Shea, Anita Pinto, Sally Reid, Sorell Schwartz, Robin Stimson and Alana Ward.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Breanna Blose, Ronald Cohen, Kim Donohue, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Richard Mackenzie, Joshua Rosenbaum, and Steven Whitehorn.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved with revisions and amendments.

III. Victim Services Directory Update

- Anita and Kim have received the most recent directory and are currently contacting agencies to verify and update information.

IV. Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) July 26, 2017, meeting update

- Chief of Police Thomas Manger received an order from the Department of Justice stating that if they do not cooperate with ICE, they will not receive federal funds.
- Montgomery County cooperates by sending ICE a list of all incarcerated individuals and their release dates. If ICE has a detainer on an individual, they have 48 hours after the release date to pick them up. After the 48 hours, the individual is released.
- Victims are not asked about their legal status.
- Gang involved crime is on the rise in Montgomery County. They do not know what to do about it. It is very distressing.
- There is four million dollars of funding available for the opioid epidemic.
- DAWG (Drug Awareness Work Group) is now retitled the Opioid Intervention Team. The Governor has declared an opioid emergency and ramped up the Opioid Operational Command Center run by Executive Director Clay Stamp. Homeland Security Departments in the County will carry out the demands of this team and work with the police. The team also received \$191,000 to create a public service campaign. Some of the funds will go towards the purchase of Narcan to resuscitate people who have overdosed on opioids.

V. BCC meeting update

- The Board had proposed to engage other hospitals to do SANE exams. Uma Ahluwalia said this would not be necessary due to creating a mobile team. One issue is not all hospitals have SANE nurses. Another issue is the cost of a mobile team.

- The mobile team would need access to special areas in the hospitals. Additionally, access to the computer system to enter information. There are some questions, who signs the limited lab certificate that has to be signed off by a physician, who will take on that responsibility? How will equipment be transported.
- Ideally you would have a forensics team in every hospital with the equipment and SANE kits at every hospital, but cost is the factor.
- The way it is now, it is inconvenient and not patient friendly as they re-victimize the victim every time, she has to re tell what happened to her in order to get services.
- Mike said that rape kits can be done as a Jane Doe if they decide not to press charges. Unless they press charges then they know the results of the rape kit. The option to do an anonymous Jane Doe rape kit can be done if the victim is unsure to involve the police.
- Rebecca stated that they could charge someone with rape without a rape kit. They can collect other evidence, such as phone stings.
- Regarding Montgomery County having the highest back log of processing rape kits in Maryland. It takes approximately \$1,000.00 to test each rape kit and it also takes a lot of staff to process them.

VI. Trauma Services Staff Interviews

- Board members Rebecca, Sorell, Anita, Cinder and Parker volunteered to help with the interviews. To assess the need of Victim Services in County.
- **Action item:** Maria will coordinate with Rafiah on dates and times for the interviews, and schedule the interviews volunteered Board members.

VII. Commission For Women (CFW) Presentation

- Jody Finkelstein will present on CFW at our October meeting. Robyn has volunteered to represent the board at the CFW Board meeting in October.

VIII. Subcommittees/Discussion/ Reports

- The Fundraising Committee: Would like to do an event. There is a county fund and a state fund could that be used, Alana wants to be able to inform the donors where the money will go to.

Action item: Felix will let the Board know the legal guidelines for fundraising.

- Housing Committee: The Board would like to have more information on the housing that we own. Also look into collaborating with the Commission On Homelessness as they consider our needs for housing in their gap analysis. Rafiah was providing them with a report based on our housing needs. They will ask Rafiah for the report to help them.

Action item: Rafiah will find out who is in charge of overseeing the properties, location size, etc.

- Victim Services Directories: Anita is working on classification indexes.
- Legislative: Legislative first deadline is to get acclimated to the county website and the upcoming meetings in September.

Action item: Robin will communicate with her subcommittee with what she learns.

IX. Reminder No August Meeting

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The Board members will meet with Raymond Crowell, BHCS Chief and discuss the needs of the VSAB for crime victims in September.

Action item: Sally will notify the Board on dates and times for the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday September 28, 2017

7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

September 28, 2017

Attendance: Breanna Blöse, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kim Donohue, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Parker O'Shea, Anita Pinto, Sally Reid, Joshua Rosenbaum, Robin Stimson, Alana Ward and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Ronald Cohen, Richard Mackenzie and Sorell Schwartz.

Guests: Katherine Ponzer and Paul Galler.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The July minutes were approved.

III. Victim Services Directory Update

- Kim reported that they are still working on the directory and making progress.

IV. Quarterly BCC Meeting Overview

- The meeting with the County Councilman George Leventhal, is a big opportunity to advocate for VSAB priorities.
- There will be two movie screenings that all the Boards and Commissions are invited to attend. The movies are "Mollie" about how a community comes together to help an African orphan and. 2nd film is "The Fabric of America" focuses on immigration. This will allow everyone to network and know more about the other BCC boards and their members.

V. Court Watch Report/Trauma Service's VAs

- Their latest report was distributed to the Board members.
- Due to funding limitations and reduced hours of our Victim Assistants are not able to help everyone that come to court. Court Watch has found that paperwork completed by victims who have not met with a VA are not properly completed and their cases get thrown out. The VAs plays a very important role in assisting victims in preparing the paperwork, which results in a better outcome.
- Victims have difficulty communicating to the Judge how important and scared they are for their lives. 37% had a VA and those who received emergency family help; 40% had a lawyer, only 6 % had no mistakes. VA's are needed.
- This needs to be a priority to advocate for more VA hours in order to fully staff the courthouses.

- Parker made a motion to make this a priority. Alana second the motion.

VI. Annual Report

- The Annual report is due next year. The Board needs to finalize the outline, interview questions, and interview dates to interview the victim services providers.

VII. Meetings with VASAP/APP/Department Head and other Victim Services Providers

- Rafiah passed around the list of the Victim Services Providers that the Board interviewed last time. She asked Board members to sign up and noted that more providers could be added to interview list.
- Board members volunteered to interview some service providers. We still need more volunteers to interview organizations on the list.
- Rafiah said those interviews should be done soon as possible, before the legislative season.

Action item: Maria will send an updated list so members can volunteer.

VIII. Review of Interview Questions for Victim Services Providers

- What type of statistics they gathering and why they are collecting them? Sally wants to create a graph with the statistics VSAB collects. Rafiah mentions that with the new grant guidelines we are gathering pertinent data.
- Rebecca suggests for Board members to bring 3to 5 questions to the next meeting.

Action item: April will set up a drop box doc to share and edit the questions.

IX. Subcommittees Discussions

- **Legislative:** The legislative call runs from January through April. The Board needs to prepare the legislative agenda.
- **Fundraising:** The board is mandated to fundraise. In the past they had a bake sales and yard sale. They discussed having a table at the National Night Out event. Rafiah mentioned Domestic Violence awareness week, she will send info and ideas for those upcoming events.
- Alana asked what the guidelines are for fundraising, what is allowed.

Action item: Rafiah will send the bylaws and guidelines of fundraising to the Fundraising Committee.

- **Housing Committee:** Alana found 27 different organizations (some religious) that provide transitional housing.
- Rafiah mentioned that pregnant mothers are not considered a family and they are harder to place in transitional housing.
- Rafiah, states, there is transitional housing but it's based on a point system and DV victims usually do not get enough points to receive transitional housing.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Rafiah thanked everyone that participated in the VSAB interviews.
- Also in attendance, guests: Katherine Ponzer has just moved to Montgomery County and wanted to learn about our Board. Paul Galler who is running for a County Executive seat wanted to get better educated about the Board as well.
- Jodi Finkelstein with the Montgomery County Commission for Women will attend our next meeting as a guest speaker on October 26, 2017.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: October 26, 2017

7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

October 26, 2017

Attendance: Breanna Blöse, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kim Donohue, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Richard Mackenzie, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Parker O’Shea, Sorell Schwartz, Robin Stimson, and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Anita Pinto, Sally Reid, Joshua Rosenbaum and Alana Ward.

Guests: Jodi Finkelstein.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Edit guest speakers first name, from Jody to Jodi.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The September Minutes were approved.
- **Commission for Women (CFW) Presented by Executive Director Jodi Finkelstein**
- CFW was established in 1972 as an advisory board to advise the County Executive, the County Council, the public agencies of the county, State and Federal government on issues concerning women in Montgomery County.
- They are comprised of a 15-person panel and one Executive Director.
- Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public.
- Their main focus is to improve women’s lives through:
 - Advocacy – projects are based on the needs of the community, resources, and the skills/abilities of the commissioners.
 - Identifying inequalities in laws, policies and procedures.
 - Providing recommendations that promote remedies.
- They educate the community about issues affecting women through seminars and publications, done in partnerships with organizations whose mission’s and goals align with CFW.
- They provide residents with free or low-cost seminars ranging in topics of divorce and separation, financial literacy, domestic violence prevention and self-defense.
- By partnering with the Montgomery College Foundation, they provide up to \$10,500 in scholarships to students who are pursuing careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math.)
- Their advocacy projects include Human Trafficking Task Force established in 2014 by County Executive Ike Leggett to increase understanding of human trafficking in Montgomery County, to develop strategies for response and prevention. Goals include increasing the identification and prosecution of all parties supporting the organized crime of human trafficking to include traffickers, suppliers, transporters,

advertisers and demand elements. The elimination of human trafficking, improving identification of and services for human trafficking victims.

- Through their advocacy projects such as the Women's Legislative Briefing, individuals come from around the country to learn more about State and Federal legislative initiatives. Participants can meet legislators, speak with policy and legislative experts, network, and continue building strong advocacy networks.
- The Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB 2018) will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018.
- Other projects include the Re-Entry Project through a partnership with the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, providing specialized services to women who are re-entering the community after serving prison time.

III. Update on Meeting with George Leventhal's Committee

- Sorell advocated on behalf of VSAB for the need for transitional and long-term housing for victims leaving the BAK (Betty Ann Krahnke) shelter are at high risk of becoming homeless.
- The need for more Victim Assistants to facilitate and help clients in court with protective orders and with compensation reimbursements.
- More groups, case management, intake contractor person for offenders through the Abused Persons Program.

IV. Finalize/Assign/Approve the Interview List for the Annual Report

- Rafiah said that minor corrections need to be made to the list. Sorell and Richard have volunteered to speak to the Chief of the BHCS Raymond Crowel. Ron will interview the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), and Parker will interview Chesapeake Counseling. DVS Domestic Violence Survivors Legal Services was added to the list and Robyn will do this interview.

Action item: Maria will send the final updated version of the list to the Board.

V. Review/Finalize/Approve the List of Questions for the Interviews

- The service providers interview questions were updated by April, and distributed.
- Steven asked to include questions, on the opioid epidemic that might be affecting our clients and other clients that service providers see. Mike said that there is a group at the University of Maryland at Shady Grove for Criminal Justice Institute has an MOU to study the connection between opioids and domestic abuse. The Board agrees that any information we collect on this subject will be helpful and should be included in the Annual Report.
- These two questions: 1) How has the opioid epidemic affected the services and/or persons that you provide services to?
2) How does substance misuse affect the services and/or persons that you provide services to? were approved by the Board.

Action item: April will send the updated questions to Maria, and she will forward to the Board.

VI. Set Deadlines for Interviews

- All interviews must be completed by January 25, 2018.

VII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Rafiah stated, new board candidates were recommended for the Board. She reminded members whose terms are ending, to send a letter saying that you would like to continue along with your resume, as terms are not renewed automatically. Rafiah will update members on the renewal process after she reaches out to the County Executive's office.

Adjournment 9 PM
Next Meeting: December 7, 2017
7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

December 7, 2017

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kim Donohue, Gerda Gallop-Goodman, Richard Mackenzie, April Marrone, Parker O'Shea, Anita Pinto, Robin Stimson and Michael Subin.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Breanna Blose, Rebecca Marcolini, Sally Reid, Sorell Schwartz, Alana Ward and Steven Whitehorn.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the Agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The October 2017 Minutes were approved.

III. Update on the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training on trauma informed interviewing/ SART MOU

- Rafiah reported that Sorell is the Board representative for the SART meetings.
- Rafiah attended a Police Academy training on police interviews of sexual assault victims, the techniques used, and how the brain is affected by trauma. She reports it was a great training.
- SART MEETING: The MOU is being finalized and VSAB, is officially part of the SART team.
- Sorell currently attends the meetings every 3 months at 10:00 am. We might need a backup person in the future.

Action Item: Maria will send the presentation to the Board

IV. Legislative Agenda from MCASA/Legislative Call

- The MCASA 2018 legislative priorities were distributed. The Board must decide which bills to advocate for.
- Four bills to consider are: 1) The Rape Survivor Family Protection Act -HB1/ SB2, 2) The College Sexual Assault – Fair Process, 3) Education About Boundaries and 4) Consent and The Access to HIV Prophylaxis.
- Robyn will join the 30-minute MCASA calls at 10 am weekly or every other week.
- Rafiah will be on the call if Robyn is unavailable.

Action Item: Rafiah will send an email for the MCASA call schedule to give to Robyn.

Action Item: Robyn will reach out to MCASA to get more information regarding the Rape Survivor Family Protection Act -HB1/ SB2 and Earned Safe and Sick Leave.

Action Item: Ron will contact the sponsor of the bills and see how our support will be helpful.

V. VSAB Program interviews/Progress/Interesting Findings

- Questions and answers were distributed to the Board.
- Parker interviewed the Chesapeake Counseling Director, Mindy Thiel. Their therapists specialize in providing individual, family, and group therapy to children, adolescents, couples, and families.
- Gerda interviewed with The Korean Community Center of Greater Washington, Director Ji- Young Cho. They provide comprehensive victim assistance services including individualized case management, in-depth counseling, free legal consultation in collaboration with the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center. Information referral services for victims of domestic violence. They primarily serve are Korean Americans population.

VI. Review of the Board Priorities

- 1) Need for transitional housing for domestic violence victims. 2) Increase in funding for offender groups provided by J&E Associates to provide counseling to male offenders. 3) Increase funding for Victim Assistants to provide more court accompaniment.

VII. Update on Fleet Street Properties

- Both properties are occupied have been rezoned. Two families have been placed in one house and one family in the second house.

VIII. Board Chair Election

- Nominations or re-nominations for Chair and Co-Chairs need to be done in May.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Felix announced that the Safe Passage Center Montgomery's County Supervised Visitation & Monitored Exchange Program site is now open. Fridays and Sundays from 12 – 8 pm and supervised visitations will take place sometime in January. It must be mandated by court order.
- Rafiah submitted the paper for the Commission on Homelessness that we wrote and as a living document, as more information is requested, we can continue to work on it.
- The Board thanked Parker, Gerda and Kim for their years of service as Board members.

Adjournment 9 PM
Next Meeting: January 25, 2018
7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

January 25, 2018

Attendance: Breanna Blose, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Pooja Deb, Richard Mackenzie, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Reem Sharaf, Michael Subin, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Rebecca Marcolini, Sorell Schwartz, Robin Stimson and Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Planning committee for sexual assault awareness month events.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The December 7, 2018, minutes were approved.

III. Introductions of New VSAB Board members

- The VSAB welcomed Pooja Deb, Kathryn Pontzer, Reem Sharaf and Jennifer Todd.

IV. FY19 Board priorities for new members & County Council meetings

- Transitional housing for domestic violence victims 2) Need for exemptions for (VASAP) therapists due to a hiring freeze. 3) Funding for the male offender program.

V. Update on the Program Trauma Services and the County Budget

- The County has a hiring freeze, with two frozen therapist positions at VASAP. This is creating an increase for our counseling waitlist.

VI. County Council Meeting update

- Sorrel and Richard will meet Councilmember Craig Rice on February 1, 2018 at 3:00 pm and Councilmember George Levental on February 7, 2018 at 12:30 pm, offices to advocate for our board priorities. Sorell scheduled the appointments.

Action item: Maria will send an email to Richard with the meeting information.

VII. VSAB Program interview discussions

- The interview questions and answers were distributed to the Board.
- Ron interviewed the Deputy Director from The House of Ruth, they provide counseling and legal advocacy to domestic violence victims.
- Cinder interviewed Nadja Cabello, Director, Rafiah Prince, Supervisory Therapist, Felix Avellanet, Program Manager, and Cornelia Skipton, Supervisory therapist from Trauma Services. They provide counseling and court advocacy/accompaniment, assistance with compensation to crime victims.

- Steven interviewed Vivian Levi Director of the Betty Ann Krahke Shelter (BAK), They provide up to 60 days of shelter, counseling, case management, legal advocacy, childcare, meals and immediate needs referrals to domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
- April interviewed an attorney from the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) They provide legal advocacy to sexual assault victims.
- All interviews are due by May 24, 2018, data gathered and drafted by June and voted on by July.

Action item: Maria will send the Board all the received interviews.

Sunday is the legislative briefing, some of our Board members will be attending.

Action item: Cinder will create a drop box so members can share all the completed interviews.

VIII. Discussion about the Annual Report and its formation

- The Board discussed the format of the annual report.

Action Item: April will create a format template for the annual report.

IX. Legislative updates, follow ups, next steps (Women's Legislative Briefing)

- Robin will take the legislative calls.
- Updates: SB2 The Rape Survivors Act is being discussed in the Senate. Individual Board members will write letters supporting the bill to Senators no later than January 30th.

Action item: April will send a generic draft letter to all members.

- HB225 Enabling certain private entities to accept the use of a certain substitute address by a victim of domestic abuse who is a participant in an address confidentiality program; authorizing an individual who acquires an ownership interest in real property while participating in an address confidentiality program to request the shielding of real property records, to protect the victim from an offender. The hearing will be held on February 6.
- HB247 Transferring the criminal injuries compensation Board from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to the Department of Health. This hearing will be held on January 30th.
- SB 121 expands the definition of abuse in the civil protective order to include abuse through phone, email, computer, revenge porn, and cameras.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- For Sexual Assault Awareness month in April, a panel discussion will be held at Montgomery College the planning meeting will be at the Family Justice Center, FJC on February 6 at 1:00 pm. Richard and Kathryn will attend.

Action item: Maria will send Richard and Kathryn the address and confirmed meeting time.

Adjournment 9:15 PM
Next Meeting: February 22, 2018
7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

February 22, 2018

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Pooja Deb, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Reem Sharaf, Sorell Schwartz, Michael Subin, Robin Stimson, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Breanna Blose, Rebecca Marcolini, Richard Mackenzie, Anita Pinto, and Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

XI. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

XII. Approval of Minutes

- January 25, 2018 Minutes were approved.

XIII. Council Members Meeting Update

- Richard and Sorell met with Councilman Craig Rice on February 1, 2018. Sorell reports that he made a commitment to support an increase in VA positions. Richard and Sorell also discussed transitional housing, and an increase in funds for the male offender program. Councilman Rice suggested for us to reissue the RFP (Request For Proposal) to get a cheaper price. J&E came in the lowest price the last time the RFP was done. Councilman Rice suggest that we meet with George Leventhal and Roger Berliner to help support us.
- Sorell met on February 7, 2018 with Senior Legislative Aide, Walt Harris who represented Councilman Leventhal. He suggested the Board work with Sidney Katz from Public Safety, and Mr. Berliner. Sorell will reach out to Sidney Katz, member of (CJCC) and Chair of the (DVCC).
- Rafiah informed the Board that the budget hearings with the County Council will be in April. A Board member can testify on board priorities.

XIV. Legislative Updates – Robin

- Robyn has been doing the weekly calls with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on Monday mornings.
- She said HB 251, for age appropriate instruction on the meaning of consent due to the “Me Too movement” this might pass.
- HB 633 Shielding of Real Property Records (Stalking), still pending.
- HB 825 for the purpose of clarifying that the term “disqualifying crime” includes a violation four classified as a misdemeanor in the State that carried a statutory penalty of five incarceration of more than a certain number of years at the time of the

commission 6 of the crime; and generally relating to regulated firearms. Hearing is on March 6th.

- HB 1302 is to create a Lethal Violence Protective Order - to make sure that their lethal weapons are confiscated.
- SB 2121, Altering the definition of “abuse” for purposes of certain provisions of laws relating to domestic violence to include misuse of telephone facilities and equipment, misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer service, revenge porn, and visual surveillance, is still pending.
- Delegate Kelly’s office wanted to know if the Board is supporting Bill HB Women’s Caucus at the state level, and Delegate Kelly is part of the Women’s Caucus. HB 301 - Evidence of Sexually Assaultive Behavior.
- The Board motions to allow Robin to represent the Board and support bills that align with the Board’s priorities.

XV. Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Sexual Assault Event in April

- Richard and Kathryn attended the meeting. The event will be on April 10, 2018 from 6-8 pm in the Montgomery College Auditorium. There will be a panel of experts, victims, moderators and county representatives from the States Attorney’s Office, Police Department, a judge, Department of Corrections and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Commander.
- Richard invited Lara Logan, CBS news correspondent who was sexually assaulted in 2011 while covering the Egyptian revolution cove d’etat. She might attend pending CBS approval.
- There will be a vigil right after the panel, glow sticks will be used in lieu of candles.
- Richard and Rafiah will do the press release and create a flyer. Kathryn will distribute the flyer.

XVI. VSAB Sponsored Consent Cards

- Rafiah passed around a sample of the consent cards to handed out to students and attendees at the SART event at Montgomery College.
- The cards are in English in the front and Spanish in the back, with a teal ribbon. Rafiah is requesting the Board to sponsor this and use VSAB printing funds.
- The Board approved the funding.

XVII. Annual Report Discussion

- April distributed a draft of the Annual report.
Action item: Board members will edit and add any information under each heading. Highlight them and name the document with your name. Please send the edits, suggestions by March 15, 2018 into the Drop Box document.
- Sally will assist with the editing of the Annual report.
- The dead line for the draft is June and the final due by July.
Action item: Maria will send the annual report outline to the Board.

XVIII. Meeting with VASAP Staff Cinder/Sorell

- Cinder and Sorell met with VASAP and APP staff to talk about their needs.

- Currently the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) has 1 full-time and has 3 part-time victim assistants and the Abused Persons Program (APP) has 2 full-time and 1 part-time. An estimated of 3 – 5 full time VAs per program would be ideal. The Family Justice Center that has seven victim assistants, and they do not appear in court.
- One issue for VA's is not being able to flex their schedule when dealing with cases. When they are accompanying their client at the end of their shift, and they are forced to leave the client. When VAs are working with domestic violence victims in court, chances of a protective order increase tremendously.
- Cinder added that safety is another concern for staff. At 1301 Piccard are no metal detectors or armed security officers. They feel they are at risk for an active shooter.
- Rafiah mentioned that Uma is aware of this issue have discussed metal detectors. Also, they does provide the active shooter training.
- The Board will advocate for, building safety and an increase of working hours for the Victim Assistants.

XIX. Update on Interviews (15)

- The Service Provider interviews deadline is May.
Action item: Maria will send the completed interviews to the Board.

XX. Completing VSAB Requirements

- Rafiah reminded new Board members they must complete the Maryland Open Meetings Act and Parliamentary Procedure Training.
Action item: Maria will send an email with a link for the training to new Board members.

XXI. Building Refresh - Felix

- 1301 Piccard Dr. will be undergoing a building refresh which means the conference room might not be available.
- Please be aware that the meeting location might change, please check your emails, and the VSAB calendar. The information will be sent to Board members along with the meeting Agenda and Minutes.

XXII. VSAB Calendar Felix

- We now have a VSAB calendar in which meetings and upcoming events will be posted.

XXIII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

Adjournment 9:10 PM
Next Meeting: March 22, 2018
7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

Thursday March 22, 2018

Attendance: Breanna Blose, Ronald Cohen, Pooja Deb, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Reem Sharaf, Sorell Schwartz, Michael Subin, Robin Stimson, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Richard Mackenzie, and Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to Agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- February 22, 2018, minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

- Felix reminded the Board to check your emails prior to each meeting for the meeting location. It may change due to the building refresh.

IV. Boards, Chairs, and Committees Meeting Update

- Reem and Sally attended the BCC meeting with Director Uma Ahluwalia on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. In that meeting Uma reported that the Budget is better than expected.
- There will be a County Executive meeting on April 10, 2018, from 7-9 pm.

V. Opioid Intervention Team

- Sorell attended the Opioid Intervention Team meeting.
- The team is divided into four groups. The first group is focusing providing outreach to hospitals to coordinate with hospital discharge planning.
- The second group is focusing on the daily information coordination and sharing of information across all agencies.
- The third group is focusing on public awareness and use of peer trainers.
- The fourth group is focusing on prevention which includes a Narcan training.
- The County is very serious about getting all of its agencies involved in the treatment and prevention of overdose.

VI. Legislative Update

- Robin reported that HB consent bill did make it to a quorum vote but did not pass. She will keep monitoring it.
- House Bill 599 expanded the definition of Abuse as it applies to petitions for DV and Protective Orders to include the person whom reliefs is sought is an adult. This vote

was lost in committee, but it was very close 11-10. She suggests VSAB might want to support this bill. MNADV thinks this has a great shot of passing next year.

- HB1302 Seizure of lethal weapons, Lethal Violence Protective Order, the hearing was on March 1, 2018. It was substantially amended in the House Judiciary.
- HB 1646 Requires the States Attorney to serve notice to defendant, counsel and the court that the defendant is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Second reader in the House, passed with amendments.
- HB 121 Family Law – Domestic Violence Definition of Abuse, this deals with the inclusion of the term “Revenge Porn”.
- HB 301- if there is history of sexual assault it may be presented in court
- HB 301, HB599 Maryland Rape kits back logs are examples 10% of them need to test the kits it helps capture repeat offenders. Rebecca said what is the of the notification of testing a rape kit. If there is a hit they reach out to the victim, or there is a hot line for victims to call and check if their kits have been tested.

VII. Annual Report

- April reports that the annual report is on the Drop Box.

Action Item: Board members need to make their edits.

- April reminds Board members to please write the name of the organization and their name in the heading of the Service Provider interviews.

Action Item: Robin will update the legislative heading, for the annual report.

- Robin presented on her interview with Amy Palumbo from the Domestic Violence Services Legal Services (DVS). The printed interview was handed out to the Board members.
- The program has volunteers and pro bono attorneys. It needs funding for staff and volunteers.
- Steven asked how they triage the incoming cases if per the report, their intake phone is ringing off the hook, they are helping many people and but are also turning away many people.
- Mike states that clients who go first to The Family Justice Center (FJC), then The House of Ruth if those groups can't help them then they do it they go to (DVS).

VIII. Update on the County Executive's FY 19 Budget

- Rafiah reported Trauma Services did not receive any cuts and funds were added for the supervised visitation center.
- The Board's priorities did not make it to the Budget due to State funds surplus of money due to tax money.
- The frozen positions should be released in July. VASAP has filed the bilingual therapist position.

IX. Upcoming Budget Meetings Dates

- The County Executive town hall meeting and the SART event are both on April. Board members declined to attend the County Executives meeting to speak about the priorities and thank Leggett for his support.
- The County Council Meeting will be held on April 11, 2018 at 1:30 pm.

Action Item: Sorell, Reem and Katherine will attend at the COB to present VSAB's priorities.
Action item: Rafiah will send out the priorities, sign up the Board members.

X. SART Vigil Update

- Katherine brought in a poster board to advertise the event here at VASAP/APP.
- The location has been moved to the University of MD at Shady Grove.
- The panel includes Deborah Feinstein, David Satinsky, Rafiah Prince, a rape survivor and the County Executive.

Action Item: Anita, Pooja, April and Ron Cohen will be at our information table and assist with other tasks.

XI. VSAB Program Interview (s) Update

- Sorell will do the Court Watch interview.

XII. Biannual Election

Action Item: The Board must nominate new Board Chairs. Elections are held every two years. Board members can nominate themselves or be nominated.

XIII. Volunteer Trivia Night

- An invitation to the event was sent to the Board.

Action Item: Please R.S.V.P.

XIV. New Business

- On April 8, 2018, the States Attorney's Office will be sponsoring a homicide survivor's memorial services for surviving family and friends. You might see media on it.
- (obc.gov) for Victims Rights Week. They are sponsoring a homicide survivors memorial service for surviving family and friends. You might see media on it.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: April 26, 2018

7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes

Thursday April 26, 2018

Attendance: Breanna Blose, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Reem Sharaf, Sorell Schwartz, Michael Subin, and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Pooja Deb, Richard Mackenzie, Rebecca Marcolini, Sally Reid, Robin Stimson, Jennifer Todd and Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Review of Agenda

II. Approval of Minutes

- The March 22, 2018, minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

- Sorell announced that he was a trivia champion at the Trauma Services Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. It was a very nice event.

IV. SART Vigil – Kathryn and Sorell

- Sorell reported that it was well attended and informative. Kathryn suggested that students should be the audience. She thought the victim who spoke was very good.
- Rafiah wanted more representation from victims, victim services and hospitals.

Action item: Discuss how the Board can contribute next year.

V. County Council Meeting - Sorell

- Sorell presented a written testimony that stated our needs for housing, VA staffing and funding for the offender program. Sorell had reached out to 4 councilmembers beforehand.

VI. Overdose and Substance Abuse Committee Meeting

- Sorell reported that Fentanyl is more potent than heroin due to the window between getting help and dying is much shorter. Montgomery County has a better record than the State on training civilians on how to use Narcan to save lives. Narcan trainings are offered at least twice per month.
- Once trained you are allowed to have it and carry it with you.
- Rafiah wants to know if Sorell will share the information collected from the Annual Report about victims and opioid use to the committee, as he stated.
- Narcan should not be flushed or added to the water system. The container of Narcan comes with a chemical that turns it solid, in order to dispose of it.

VII. BCC Meeting with the County Executive - Felix

- Felix presented the Boards needs and reported that 20 Boards and Commission representatives spoke. Felix spoke briefly about the Safe Passage Exchange place.

Action item: Rafiah and Felix will set up a Safe Passage Exchange tour during a Board meeting.

Action item: Maria will announce that it will be a closed meeting once scheduled.

VIII. VSAB Program Interviews and Update

- The interview questions and answers were distributed to the Board.
- Reem interviewed Rebecca Marcolini at the States Attorney's Office.
- They serve about 5,000 victims of crimes by helping them at hearings, with court dates and connecting them to resources. Some of the challenges besides finding the witnesses to the crime is that when it takes a long time to get witnesses, the victims do not want to testify. They are expanding their reception room. They want access to more provider information.
- Bre interviewed Jessica Volz, VSN, RN, FNE A/P from Adventist Health Care, Shady Grove Medical Center Emergency Center. It is home to the forensic nurse examiners for Montgomery County. In 2017, they saw 427 victims, 300 in 2016. They provide confidential medical care from specially trained nurses. They serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, child physical and sexual assault, abuse, human trafficking, elder abuse, assault, and neglect.

Their forensic medical services include consultations, treatment, screening for service eligibility, evidence collection, injury documentation and interpretation, resource identification, providing expert testimony, prevention measures for sexually transmitted infections, and connections to other resources. Their main challenge is the need for funding.

- Cinder and Sorell interviewed Trauma Services. They need more VA hours to provide court services and help with peace and protective orders.

IX. Annual Report

- All interviews need to be turned in by the May 24, 2018, Board meeting.

X. Biannual Election Felix

- Please nominate a member or yourself to be a Chair of the Board.

Action item: Maria will send an email reminder for board nominations

XI. New Business

- Reem asked about a social media page for VSAB. We are on www.vasap.org . Reem and Bre volunteered to manage the web page.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: May 24, 2018

7-9 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes
Thursday May 24, 2018

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Pooja Deb, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Reem Sharaf, Sorell Schwartz, Michael Subin, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Breanna Blose, Richard Mackenzie, Rebecca Marcolini, Robin Stimson and Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to the Agenda

- Sorell will report on the CJCC meeting.
- Katherine will speak about the SART debriefing meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The April 26, 2018, minutes were approved, with corrections.

III. Safe Exchange Visit

Action Item: Maria will send a Doodle Poll with available dates and times for the Board to choose for a Safe Passage visit.

Action Item: Once a date and time is chosen, Felix will coordinate with Karen Mull, Program Manager at the Safe Exchange.

IV. VSAB Program Interview Discussion

- Most interviews are completed. Court Watch is the last interview pending.

Action Item: Rafiah will put them on the agenda to make a presentation to the Board.

- Katherine presented her interview, which was distributed, to the Board. She interviewed

Lieutenant Jordan Satinsky, from Montgomery County Police Department Special Victims Investigation Division. He reports that the coordination between systems continues to improve with time. They serve approximately 650 children and 350 adults for physical and sexual abuse; 400 for domestic violence; 150 mentally impaired individuals and 15% of people serviced are illegal immigrants. He organized a training for police officers to be clear on VASAP and Tree House roles. He is implementing a trauma informed approach with victims. They need more full-time investigators.

V. Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) Meeting - Sorell

- Sorell attended the meeting presented by Kathryn Dumai, Robert Green and Tom Manger, they discussed Protection orders and surrendering of firearms. In addition, they discussed legislation prohibiting sexual activity between police and persons in

custody. MCASA's Legislative priorities, HB247 transferred the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention GOOCP. The Bill called Past Bad Acts, addresses child sexual assault and abuse, which allows for offenders past sexual crimes can be introduced during current court cases.

VI. Annual Report – April

- April asked for volunteers to help with the Annual Report. She needs a message from the chairs, a mission statement and mandate. There are eight more weeks to finish the Annual report, the Board is shooting for July.

Action item: Draft due by the June 28, 2018, meeting.

Action items: April will add priorities and accomplishments and will edit the final draft.

- Anita will edit Victim Services Advisory Board section.
- Rafiah will work on identifying future priorities, vacant positions and demographic information.
- Sally will edit the victim services interviews and population served by using tables and pie charts, and the finance section.
- Cinder will edit and chart the Providers concerns section.
- Pooja will edit the Providers performance section.
- Anita will edit VSAB support section.
- Ron will help to edit the annual report.
- April will be in charge of the annual report master copy.

VII. Fleet Street Update

- There was an inspection at the Fleet Street properties, and they discovered lead in the windows. The occupants were vacated. It will cost \$800,000.00 to replace the windows. Sorell is looking to meet with Chuck Short, Dave Dice and the County Executive, to see if there is a resolution to saving the properties or getting other properties in exchange.

VIII. Bi-Annual Election for a New Chair (Felix)

- The Board nominated April, Robyn and Sally to serve as Co-Chairs.
- Sorell is stepping down as Co-Chair but will still attend all the committee meetings that he is a part off.
- Sally, April and Robyn will serve as Chairs.

IX. SART Event Debriefing Meeting - Kathryn

- Jordan Satinsky complimented the victim that spoke at the event and suggested having more than one victim speak. Jordan mentioned that Richard Mackenzie was working on the video for the next event. Kathryn suggested the need for more social

media outreach to high schools and colleges, more VIPs and state level organizations. The planning for the next event will start in September 2018.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Sexual Harassment Happens in MCPS, this is a petition going around to fight for an increase of resources and policies for handling sexual violence in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). They want an increase of education on consent, the differences between healthy and abusive relationships in the health curriculum.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting Thursday June 28, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes
Thursday June 28, 2018

Attendance: Pooja Deb, Richard Mackenzie, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Reem Sharaf, Jennifer Todd, Robin Stimson and Alana Ward, Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Breanna Blose, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Anita Pinto, Sally Reid, Sorell Schwartz and Michael Subin.

Support Staff: Felix Avellanet, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

Guests: Laurie Duker, Sienna Lee.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Boards Committees and Commissions (BCC)

Robin, April, Felix and Robin attended this meeting. Uma Ahluwalia wants an executive summary on how we engage with the community, what are the Board's priorities are and what does the Board wants to see happen with other BCCs and the new County Executive.

Action Item: Maria will email everyone the BCC Administration Transition Document for their input.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The May 24, 2018, minutes were approved.

III. Court Watch Presentation (Laurie Duker)

- Court Watch was started seven years ago, with 10 volunteers, now they have 70 attending over 500 court hearings.
- Court Watch assists domestic violence victims with comprehensive legal protections.
- They would like help to publicize dangers of domestic violence and to push for an up county and down county Safe Passage Center.
- The Court Watch presentation was distributed.

IV. Annual Report (April Marrone)

- The financial section, Sally is finalizing.
- April asked the Board to take a look at the Annual report on drop box to make sure that things are clear.
- Volunteer needed to work on program high lights. April will add missing presentations that were made to the Board this FY 18. The goal is to have the Annual report finalized by July 19, 2018, one week before the next meeting.

Action item: Cinder and April will update the information on the charts.

Action item: Rafiah will check on the VSAB Board's bylaws.

Action item: Robin will send the Boards Committees and Commissions (BCC) meeting dates.

V. Safe Passage Center Visit (Felix Avellanet)

- We will have a tour on Friday July 13, 2018.

Action item: Felix will send additional dates and times for Board members that cannot come on 7/13/18.

VI. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Siena Lee from the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington observed the VSAB meeting. Gave a quick summary of the services they provide.
- KCSC's mission is to assist and empower Asian Americans and new immigrants to become well-adjusted and fully contributing members of the United States through social services, education, advocacy, and development of resources.
- KCSC provides comprehensive victim assistance services including individualized case management, in-depth counseling, free legal consultation in collaboration with Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC), court accompaniment services, interpretation/translation services, and information and referral services for victim of domestic violence.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: July 26, 2018

7-9 PM