

## VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

July 24, 2019

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Quintara Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Kecia Lopes, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Liz Briganty Vidal and Sorell Schwartz.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Annabelle Gerendasy for Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

**Guests:** Drena Reaves-Bey.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

### **I. Additions to Agenda**

- No additions to the agenda.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- The June 27, 2019, minutes were approved.

### **III. Introduction of new board members**

- Welcome to Neda Bolourian, Quintara Brunson, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, and Juanita Rogers.

### **IV. Public Affairs/Events Sub Committee updates and Facebook demonstration - Sally Reid**

- They attended and reported the public Orange event.
- If you know of events or resources, please notify the Affairs and Events Subcommittee members.
- To attend an event, please send a request to Rafiah. If it is approved, they can say they are members but not represent the board.
- It takes weeks to get the approval, so please send requests as soon as possible.

**Action item:** Leah will send a list of the upcoming events to Rafiah.

### **V. Annual Report - April Marrone**

- Volunteers are needed to meet with the VASAP and APP staff in September, in order to prioritize needs.
- The 2018 Annual Report and interview questions for service providers were distributed.
- Volunteers are also needed to interview Service providers in January.
- Quitara Brunson, Neda Bolourian, Brian Koosed, Sally Reid, and Leah Schwartz have volunteered.

**Action item:** April will work with Rafiah to schedule a meeting with VASAP and APP staff.

**VI. Questionnaire for County Service Provider Interviews – April Marrone**

- The document was distributed, and the Board agreed to combine questions 1 & 8, 3 & 4, 5 & 6, 9 & 10, and to add to question 11, How are you funded? Move question 14 to Budgeting section and add “Do you have adequate staffing?” “if not why?” Remove question 21, combine questions 23 & 25. Combine questions 26 & 27 and move them to the performance section.

**Action item:** April will edit the document to reflect the changes.

**VII. Directory Update – Rafiah Prince**

- Rafiah contacted the Mary Anderson. She said they can have a banner on the County website with a link, to VASAP’s website. Mary can do a press release. Additionally, a release that targets County agencies.

**Action item:** Cinder and Ron will work on the press release, due on August 8, 2019, and send it to April and Rebecca.

**VIII. Legislative Sub Committee updates – Kathryn Pontzer**

- They would like to clarify if the role of the Board is to support targeted legislation that is being lobbied by others. Is the Board permitted to suggest potential legislative changes to other entities that are allowed to lobby?

**Action item:** Agree on the role at the September meeting. Agree on VSAB’s legislative priorities, deadline at December Board meeting.

- Conduct outreach to determine legislative priorities for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session. This can be ongoing, but much of the work should occur between September and December.
- Identify/Agree on VSAB’s legislative priorities.
- Define what we mean by “supporting” legislative priorities.

**IX. Executive Sub-Committee updates – April Marrone**

- April is requesting two more members join with this committee.
- They met with the County Council members and attend budget hearings, write letters to Council members. Currently they are trying to get a meeting with Raymond Crowel.

**Action item:** Maria will send everyone the list of Sub Committees and descriptions.

**X. Announcements/Comments/New Business**

**Action item:** Kecia Lopes will provide a better picture for the Annual report.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday September 26, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

## VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 26, 2019

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian; Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal; Quintaria Brunson; Ronald Cohen; Cinder Cooper Barnes; Amos Hicks III; Brian Koosed; Jessica J. Leslie; Kecia Lopes; April Marrone; Kathryn Pontzer; Sally Reid; Juanita Rogers; Reem Sharaf; Sorell Schwartz; Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Leah Schwartz.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Annabelle Gerendasy for Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

**Guests:** Drena Reaves-Bey.

**Support Staff:** Rafiah Prince.

### I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

### II. Approval of Minutes

- The July 25, 2019, approved unanimously without objection after motion and seconding.

### III. New Member Introduction:

- Jessica Leslie, National Sexual Assault Hotline Director; VAWA/IVAWA

### Sub-Committee Discussion and Assignments:

- New VSAB Members were assigned to the sub-committees as follows:

· Executive/Budget Sub-Committee: Brian Koosed

· Legislative Sub-Committee: Quintaria Brunson, Amos Hicks, Jessica Leslie, and Juanita Rogers.

· Public Affairs, Education & Events Sub-Committee: Neda Bolourian.

### IV. Discussion of Service Provider Questions, including game plan and assignment of different service provider interviews:

- Form Service Provider Questions approved unanimously without objection after motion and seconding.
- Game Plan/Timing: Plan is to conduct service provider interviews by January/early February, so that data is ready for inclusion in Annual Report due in June.
- Organization Assignments: VSAB members were given the following assigned organizations for conducting service provider interviews:
  - o Police Victim's Advocates: Jessica Leslie

- o Identity (focused on Hispanic community): Rebecca Marcolini.
- o Shady Grove Adventist: Neda Bolourian
- o SALI: Quintaria Brunson
- o JCADA, Safe Passages Program: Brian Koosed
- o Montgomery County Sheriff's Office: Amos Hicks III
- o State's Attorney: Cinder Cooper Barnes
- o Chesapeake: Sally Reid
- o Family Justice Center: Kecia Lopes
- o Korean Community Services: April Marrone
- o House of Ruth: Ron Cohen
- o RAINN: Juanita Rogers
- o Safe Passage: Reem Sharaf
- o Betty Ann Krahnke: Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal
- o Pre-Trial Services: Robin Stimson
- o Unassigned as of now: Treehouse, Catholic Charities, Ayuda, CASA de Maryland

**V. Executive/Budget Sub-Committee Update à Discussion of Upcoming Meetings/Business:**

- VASAP Staff and Management Meetings: The following VSAP members will attend the November 14 meeting being held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (staff then management) à Robin Stimson, Ronald Cohen, April Marrone.
- BCC Meeting: October 2, 2019 à Meeting with Dr. Crowll was canceled.
- HHS Meeting of County Council: October 17, 2019. April Marrone and Robin Stimson will be presenting on VSAB's top priorities. A discussion of those priorities, including issues arising from the repurposing of the Fleet Street project, ensued. Testimony will focus on Housing issues and offender group funding.
- December VSAB Meeting: Expected to have Gabe Albornoz, HHS Sub-Committee head, as our special guest.

**VI. Legislative Sub-Committee Update:**

- Discussion led by Kathryn Pontzer on Legislative Sub-Committee issues, including: (i) how the calendar of typical County year sessions works; (ii) VASB's desire to be prepared to support the MCASA reception in Annapolis in January 2020, with agenda being set in October/November 2019; and (iii) educating new VSAB members on legislative "dos and don'ts" and record requirements

**VII. Public Affairs/Events Sub-Committee Update:**

- Discussion on October 2019 being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, other calendaring items, and devising a social media strategy for the final quarter of 2019 designed to raise community awareness of VASAP/VSAB.

**VIII. Announcements/Comments/New Business:**

- Sorell Schwartz presented on the District Court report on forming a Mental Health Court docket in Montgomery County for mental competency issues, noting that the Montgomery County Circuit Court is working on a similar approach. Mr. Schwartz noted that there may be a place for victims' advocates in the Mental Health Court docket and suggested this might be an avenue for obtaining additional VASAP

- funding. VSAB agreed to follow up on this and on upcoming Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee meetings.
- Rafiah Prince presented on: (i) the “Johns Bill” that is resulting in funds being directed to VASAP; (ii) the Directory of Service Providers being built into the VASAP website for ease of use, to be live by early October 2019, subject to County Executive approval; and (iii) upcoming presentation to VASAP staff by the Executive Director of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday October 24, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

## VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

October 24, 2019

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian; Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal; Ronald Cohen; Cinder Cooper Barnes; Amos Hicks III; Brian Koosed; Jessica J. Leslie; April Marrone; Kathryn Pontzer; Sally Reid; Leah Schwartz; Sorell Schwartz; Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Quintaria Brunson; Kecia Lopes; Juanita Rogers; Reem Sharaf.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Annabelle Gerendasy for Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

### **I. Additions to Agenda**

- No additions to the agenda.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- The September 26, 2019, minutes were approved.

### **III. Service provider interviews - April Marrone**

- The service provider assigned members the interviews to be completed by February.

**Action item:** Maria will email the updated list to board.

### **IV. VSAB Directory update - Rafiah Prince**

- Rafiah presented to the board the progress of the online version of the VSAB Provider Directory.
- There will be a press release when its finished.

**Action item:** Robin will draft an acknowledgement letter to Mary Anderson, the Public Information Officer Health and Human Services, for her assistance in doing the online version.

### **V. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson**

#### **a. Legislative committee path forward**

- Members are to have interests and legislative activities, separated by months, main themes and follow up with members.
- The subcommittee members are to compile information, eliminate duplicates, deadline for the draft is December 14, 2019.

#### **b. Meeting with Melanie Wegner**

- Robin, Kathryn and Rafiah attended this meeting on October 22, 2019, to meet with Melanie Wegner and Leslie Frey to talk about the role the Board can play during the legislative season. In addition, what the process is for the Board and their advocacy efforts.
- The legislative Process Overview for VSAB was handed out to the board. This includes the advocacy request form which is to be completed if the board is meeting

with delegates or elected officials. This form is required for approval before testimony in Annapolis.

**VI. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates - Sally Reid**

- The Board wore purple in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Action item:** a photo of the board will be posted on Facebook page.

- The VSAB brochure will be revised.
- The wants a VSAB tablecloth and also promotional items such as t-shirts and give a ways for events. Rafiah said there is no funding for promotional items or advertisement.
- Robin showed her magnetic name tag and suggested getting those for the Board for when they go to events.
- Leah once again asked if you know of an event let the Public Affairs subcommittee know as soon as possible as they need to get permission.
- The subcommittee is also asking to print out the Service Provider Directory to hand out at events for people to know about services.

**Action item:** Maria to look into pricing for reusable magnetic nametags for the board members.

**VII. Executive Subcommittee updates - April Marrone**

- a. Funding community outreach educator update
  - Raymond Crowell is very confident that he can get the funding for this position.
- b. Department of General Services meeting
  - Greg Ossont from the Department of General Services is re-scoping the project to fix the Fleet Street Properties.
  - The fleet street housing was not earmarked for domestic violence victims, so once repaired they will be bid out to other programs, which means that domestic violence victims will have to compete with other clients (veterans, homeless etc).
- c. Interagency Commission to Homelessness Continuum of Care Domestic Violence (IACH CoC DV) bonus project funding and point system
  - Kathryn met with Nili Soni and Amanda Harris from IACH regarding homelessness for families. They talked to them on the differences between transitional and permanent housing.
  - The Board did agree to working with the Family Justice Center (FJC) and Court Watch to support the Feet Street Properties being used for domestic violence victims.

**VIII. Reminder to start getting profile pictures for new members - April Marrone**

- For those board members still missing their profile pictures, please send them in.

**IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business**

- Rafiah distributed the letter sent to Montgomery County residents regarding the privatizing of alcohol stores. In the past the Board has advocated against privatization.

- The Board will make a decision if they want to continue to advocate.

**Action item:** Rafiah will send the board letters showing where the Board opposed in the past.

Adjournment 8:38 PM

Next Meeting: December 5, 2019, 6:30 - 8:30 PM



## VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

December 5, 2019

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Amos Hicks III, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Reem Sharaf, Sally Reid.

**Members Absent:** Ronald Cohen, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie; Leah Schwartz; Sorell Schwartz; Robin Stimson.

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

### I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

### II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

### III. Executive Subcommittee updates - April Marrone

- a. Neda will join the subcommittee.
- b. FY20 Budget advocacy meetings  
The goal is to set up meetings to present the Board's initiatives, to the following council members and HHS staff: Health and Human Services Council members Gabe Albornoz, Craig Rice, Evan Glass, Tom Hucker, Sidney Katz, Hans Riemer, Linda McMillen Council Senior Legislative Analyst staff and Raymond Crowell, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- c. April, Rafiah, Robin and Terri Bennett met with the Special Needs Housing Director, Amanda Harris and Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Director. The Board wants to change the Vulnerability Index (VI-SPDAT) point system because domestic violence victims only score 1 point. Amanda Harris wants to support the County Executive's Turn the Curb Program. (rapid rehousing that is tailored to domestic violence victims). Amanda is requesting a letter from the Board for the County Executive in supporting the rapid rehousing program.  
**Action Item:** April will write the letter of support and add it to the Board's initiatives.
- d. Inter-Agency Commission on Homelessness (IACH) testimony document was distributed. Rafiah will get the information and numbers for the qualified rapid housing. She wants to highlight the Betty Ann Krahnke (BAK) residents who leave without housing.

The Board would like a testimony from a shelter resident to give testimony at the County Council meeting. The IACH meets every 3 months, and the Board would like a representative to attend.

**Action item:** Rafiah will invite the BAK Director Jill Larson to present at a Board meeting and set up a tour of the BAK.

**IV. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Kathryn Pontzer**

- a. The Legislative calendar is due on December 14, 2019.
- b. The Commission for Women Legislative Briefing will be held on January 26, 2020. It costs \$30. It gives a good perspective of what is coming up in the legislature.  
Juanita and Kathryn will meet with Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield. Robin will meet Kathleen Dumais. They need two more members to meet Senator Lee, Delegate Emily Shetty and Delegate David Moon on January 14, 2020. Please reply to all when you reply to the committee.

**V. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates - Sally Reid**

- a. Sally is still working on the VSAB brochure.
- b. T-shirts choices were distributed. Rafiah reminded the Board that it must be approved by the County. Rafiah will look into getting County pins and the t-shirts.

**VI. VSAB meeting with Victim Assistance And Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) /Abused Persons Program (APP) staff - April Marrone**

- April and Ron met with the staff. The Board will continue to advocate for 8 full time Victim Assistant (VA) positions. Amos says that if we give him literature describing the needs, he could distribute it directly to the judges.
- The Board is advocating for the Crime victims' compensations fund cap to go up to \$5000.  
**Action item:** April will write a letter of support for more VA positions and would like to include the judges's signature. Kathryn will give the letter to the judges she knows directly.  
**Action item:** Rafiah will find out if we can ask judges to sign.  
**Action item:** Rafiah will email the law on the Crime Victims Compensation to the Board.

**VII. Service provider interviews - April Marrone**

- Send completed interviews to Maria and Rafiah by email.

**VIII. VSAB Directory update - Rafiah Prince**

- Rafiah will send it to Mary Anderson for the press release.

**IX. County Alcohol Privatization - Rafiah Prince and April Marrone**

- The Board is undecided about supporting this, will hold this item to a vote at the next Board meeting.

**X. Announcements/ Comments/ New Business**

- New Board members need to send in your pictures as soon as possible to April.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: January 23, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

## **VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)**

January 23, 2020

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Cinder Cooper Barnes, Sorell Schwartz, Sally Reid.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Rebecca Marcolini, Annabelle Gerendasy on behalf of Ellen Alexander.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

- The October 24, 2019, and December 5, 2019, minutes were approved.

### **II. Executive Subcommittee updates - April Marrone**

- FY20 Budget advocacy meetings update and vote on letter to send Executive and Council members.

The Board approved the letters of support for County judges to sign.

**Action Item:** April will send the letter to Maria to print on letterhead.

- April will attend the IACH testimony which will be on Wednesday, March 18, from 3-6 pm. at the Rockville library.

**Action item** – Maria will print on VSAB Board letter head and scan it to April. Liz will go to support and take pictures for the website.

- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council: The next meeting is on March 12, from 5-7 pm. April will testify on the Board's priorities.

### **III. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson and Kathryn Pontzer**

- Legislative meetings: Robin met with Kathleen Dumais, Demi, Leslie Lopez, Delegate Ariana Kelly, Susan Lee and her Chief of staff Winestriker, Kelly Shetty, and Delegate Moon.
- In 2020 they will do letters of support. Delegate Moon wants to increase funding for child support and restitution for CICB.

**Action item:** Kathryn will draft a letter in support of Restitution bill.

- Legislative Calendar - Robin will send information to her subcommittee to fill in the wholes on the calendar. Please send her any legislative events to add to the calendar.
- Commission for Women Legislative Briefing will be held on January 26, 2020. Kathryn will attend.

### **IV. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates - Sally Reid**

- VSAB promotional items, Rafiah is waiting for approval from Beth Gochrach about the shirt and pins. Business cards are not allowed for Board members.
- Leah is posting every month on Facebook, so please like and share it to the community.

Rafiah informed the board on the County Executive calendar on the Montgomery County Government website. If the Board would like to attend events.

- V. Q/A for service provider interviews - April Marrone**
- Please send them to April. Write answers under the questions, name the document: (i.e, 2020 [enter name of the service provider] and print your name.
- VI. The Betty Ann Krahnke Shelter (BAK) tour - April Marrone/Rafiah Prince**
- The Betty Ann Krahnke Shelter (BAK) tour will be held on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- VII. Compensation Fund Law Bill 21-98 - Rafiah Prince**
- The Board will advocate for the Bill to increase the limits from 2500. To 5000.
- VIII. Court Watch Montgomery reports (<https://courtwatchmontgomery.org/>) -April Marrone**
- They have published a new report that is more informative with accumulative data. It is a great resource for the Board.
  - Robin went to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meeting their focus is on distracted drivers, pedestrian safety enforcement and outreach. There was a discussion about the lack of funding to run the program. Looking at individuals who have opioid addictions and looking into a more holistic approach. The meeting will on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am.
  - Robin will follow up with Carolyn Sturgis we need to appoint someone to the CJCC seat.  
**Action item:** Robin will check on how we can nominate another Board member. They will continue this discussion at the next Board meeting.
- IX. Vote on Board position on County alcohol policy - Rafiah Prince and April Marrone**
- The Board will vote at a later time so they can be more informed
- X. Resubmitting for reappointment of terms VSAB - Rafiah Prince**
- To be reappointed, you must submit your request by February 5, 2020.
- XI. Reminder to start getting profile pictures for new members - April Marrone**

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: February 27, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

**VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)**  
**February 27, 2020**

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Amos Hicks III, April Marrone and Sally Reid.

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Rebecca Marcolini and Ellen Alexander.

**Guest:** Caroline Sturgis.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

**I. Additions to Agenda**

- The Board Thanked Sorell for 7 years of service. Also, thanked Cinder for her service to the Board.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- The January 23, 2020, minutes were approved.

**III. Executive Subcommittee updates – Robin Stimson**

- Kathryn and Brian will meet with Craig Rice's Chief of staff on Friday, February 28, 2020.
- Meeting with Gabe Albornoz to discuss the Fleet Street properties, and the need of having victim assistants in the court room from both Trauma Services and the Family Justice Center (FJC).
- Robin reports the Family independent initiative had success in other parts of the country, but she does not see it working with our population domestic violence victims have unique housing needs.
- Kathryn met with Hanz Reemer, he was very focused on the housing; and was interested in transitional housing, through the Rapid rehousing program.
- Robin met with Caroline Sturges – Assistant Chief Administrative officer replacing Mike Subin. They spoke about the RFP for the male offender program.
- Letter of support from County judges, the Board approve it. Neda will present the letter to Judge Mitchell. Robyn will also reach out to her at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) meeting on March 25, 2020.
- Reminder of the Inter Agency Coalition for Homelessness (IACH) testimony will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 3-6 pm at the Rocville Library. First floor conference room. Brian and Liz will testify.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council - The Board approved the handed-out testimony, April will testify on March 12, 5-7 pm at the Family Justice Center (FJC).

**IV. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson**

- Legislative support letter(s) - bills of concern reviewed and approved.

- Legislative calendar update – Robin is working on events and meetings.

**Action Item:** Robin will finalize and send it to the Board in two weeks.

- Kathryn – Bills SB 212, 210, 230 and 206 Are Bills that the Board could support. A description of the bills was distributed. Brian moved to approve it. The Board approved supporting the Bills and the letter.

**Action Item:** The Board will coordinate a trip to Annapolis within the next two weeks.

- Commission for Women Legislative Briefing – requested for Montgomery County Commission for Women representative Jodi Finkelstein to attend a Board meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Robin requested a presentation on victim services for Native American people.

**Action Item:** Rafiah will ask Steven Whitehorn to present.

- Robin suggested all experience time in a court room to listen to the Protective orders hearings.

**Action Item:** Rafiah will coordinate with our VA's to attend.

#### V. **Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Liz Briganty Vidal**

- Vote on VSAB brochure – Liz will update the brochure and will send it to the Board for approval.
- The County agreed to purchase pins. The t-shirts were approved but the Board must pay for them with their own funds.

**Action item:** Rafiah will work on the pins.

- Choose Respect Fest Event is on March 29, 2020, 1 – 4 pm at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center. The Board will have a table.
- April is Sexual Assault Awareness month.

**Action item:** Wear teal blue at the next Board meeting so a photo of all members can be taken.

#### VI. **Board vote on Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) representative – Robin Stimson**

- The Board voted to send Robin as the VSAB representative to the CJCC meetings held every other month on the first Wednesday of that month. The next meeting is on March 25, 2020 at 7:30 am

- **VSAB Directory update - Rafiah**
- VSAB Annual Report Members
  - Interviews and answers are due to April ASAP.

#### VII. **BAK field trip - Rafiah Prince**

- Will be on March 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

#### VIII. **Update on RFP for (APP) Offender Groups – Rafiah**

- The RFP is located at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pro/contract.html>. RFP # 1110701 bid is opening March 5.

#### IX. **Announcements/Comments/New Business**

- The Board thanked Sorell and Cinder Cooper Barnes for their service to the Board.

Adjournment 8:35 PM

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Hello all,

I hope that everyone is safe and healthy at home (and also, hopefully sane). We wanted to send a brief update to the board to let you know about a couple of things

1. As of today, April 8th, 2020, the April 23rd board meeting is cancelled. If you have not already seen the e-mail from the VASAP staff, the Volunteer recognition that was to take place on April 21st was also cancelled. We have not been given permission by the county to conduct Zoom meetings, so until we get an update on tele-meetings or when in-person restrictions are lifted, meetings are cancelled until further notice.

2. The meeting with Sidney Katz' office took place via telephone on March 18 (thank you again to Brian and Kathryn) and went well. However, we have not heard about or seen an update on when the County Council will, or how they will, logistically conduct meetings/vote. However, as a result of all of our in-person meetings, testimony and calls we did get word that the Executive's proposed budget included an additional full-time employee for VASAP/APP. Please see April's previous e-mail for additional Executive Committee updates (March 26th)

3. Despite the Covid-19 setbacks, a few of the state legislative issues we were in support of, passed. House Bill 233 (HB233) and Senate Bill (SB212) "Criminal Law - Assault in the First Degree - Suffocation or Strangulation) passed in late March. This will make strangulation a first-degree felony assault. Unfortunately, the marital rape bill did not pass. Nevertheless, we feel strongly that our presence, advocacy and outreach was effective (thanks again to Kathryn for really spear-heading the effort this session) and we are in a much better place to get ahead of legislative matters next year.

4. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council testimony was cancelled due to public health concerns. When we hear about a new date on this, we'll let you know.

5. We recently drafted and submitted a letter of support for re-certification of the Abuser Intervention Program on behalf of the VASAP staff.

As soon as we have more information about any of the information mentioned above, we will let you know. In the meantime, please be well. Thank you again for all you do!

Sincerely,

Robin Stimson, LMSW



## **VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)**

**May 28, 2020**

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Quintaria Brunson.

**Ex-Officio Members Absent :** Ellen Alexander.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

### **I. Additions to Agenda**

- Board members must request travel and dependent care reimbursements to Maria to later than June 8.

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### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- The February 27, 2020, minutes were approved.

### **III. Virtual Meeting Procedures and Discussion – Robin Stimson**

- Robin read the rules and procedures for having a virtual Board meeting:  
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.

### **IV. Comments on COVID-19 impact on victims - Rafiah Prince**

- Trauma Services has been very busy providing therapy via phone to victims.
- Volunteer face to face outreaches were suspended. Outreach is being made via phone directly to the victim by the volunteer. Victims can go through a separate entrance instead of through the Emergency Room.
- The selected video therapy was not approved.

### **V. VSAB Board Co-Chair Election Discussion – Robin Stimson/April Marrone/Rafiah Prince**

- Robin and April have been the co-chairs for 2 years and will step down in June. Robin will remain a Board member but will resign as chair because she is now on another board. April will resign as chair and not renew her term when it ends in December.
- Robin thinks a co-chair is very helpful due to the time commitment it requires.
- April says as Chair, you must do the following: create an Agenda, facilitate the meetings, oversee the Executive subcommittee, and coordinate with the HHS staff. April will offer documents to help guide the next Chair.

- Kathryn has been nominated. Members will vote for the new chair at the June meeting or via email.

#### **VI. Annual Report - April Marrone**

- April would like to finalize the Annual Report by the next meeting. Brian, Leah and Neda will assist April.

**Action Item: Each subcommittee will send in a paragraph reporting on their activities from the last year.**

#### **VII. Executive Subcommittee Updates - April Marrone**

- Kathryn and Brian spoke with Council President, Sidney Katz, via phone on March 18, 2020. They have put together a draft for the Budget advocacy meeting.
- Councilmember Evan Glass would like to attend a VSAB Board meeting.
- Meetings have been made with Councilmembers, Gabe Albornoz, Craig Rice, Hanz Reemer and the with the County Executive's staff.
- The County Executive's proposed budget includes an additional full-time therapist position for VASAP. We have two supervisor retirements this year.
- Brian testified at the Inter-Agency Coalition for Homelessness ((IACH) meeting and was well received.
- The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) meeting in March was cancelled due to Covid-19. The next meeting will be in July for a board member to attend. For more information: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/dvcc/>

#### **VIII. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson**

- Robin is still working on the June calendar.
- HB 233- "Criminal Law - Assault in the First Degree - Suffocation or Strangulation has passed. This will make strangulation a first-degree felony assault.
- Unfortunately, the marital rape bill did not pass. The Board will support this bill next year.

#### **IX. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz and Liz Briganty-Vidal**

- The VSAB brochure has some redundancy, the meeting dates needs to be updated, the meeting location should be removed, and the description of VASAP should be different.
- **Action Item: Send your feedback, edits to Leah by June 2.**
- June is gun violence prevention month, please wear orange to the June meeting. We will take a group picture. Leah and Reem were nominated to head this subcommittee.

#### **X. CJCC Meeting – Robin Stimson**

- The March meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to a virtual meeting on May 27. The courts will reopen on June 5. Our Victim Assistants will be allowed in the courts but with the 25% occupancy, they may not be allowed. Chief Jones reported an increase in strangulation and homicide cases.

- There is a backlog on protective orders. All judges are presiding all day, every day. Due to the 30-day threshold, priority is for grand jury trials. Evictions will be allowed beginning July 20.

**XI. VASAP/APP Staff Appreciation – ‘Thank You Note’ from the Board – Robin Stimson**

- Liz will work on a thank you to Trauma Services via a video incorporating a song or signs.

**Action item:** Please send photos, and/or notes to Liz due by June 4.

**XII. Betty Ann Krankhe visit– Rafiah Prince**

- Will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment 8:45 PM

Next Meeting will be on June 25, 2020

from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)**  
**June 25, 2020**

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

**I. Additions to Agenda -Rafiah Prince**

- The County Executive's Office wants to publicize the thank you video the Board made for the staff. The Board gave permission for the public use of the video.

**II. Virtual Meeting Procedures and Discussion – Robin Stimson**

- 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 May 2020 meeting**

- The May 28, 2020, minutes were approved.

**IV. VSAB Board Co-Chair Election – Board at Large**

- April nominated Kathryn and Juanita as Co-chairs. Robin seconded the nominated. Kathryn and Juanita have accepted the nominations and were accepted as the new Co-Chairs.
- Rafiah thanked the current chairs for the service.
- The new chairs will join the current Co- chairs and Rafiah on their next call on July 9, 2020, to begin the transition.

**V. Annual Report Update - April Marrone**

- April needs all final suggestions, self-photos and statements on why you serve on the Board by July 13 for the report to be ready for the July meeting.

**Action item: Rafiah will send April the fiscal numbers from the Betty Ann Krahnke (BAK).**

**VI. Executive Subcommittee updates - April Marrone**

**Action item: Juanita and Kathryn will schedule a meeting with Raymond Crowell and Teresa Bennett.** Letter of support from County Judges/Next Steps:

**Action item:** Amos will schedule a meeting with Judge Greenberg's Legal aide.

**Action item:** Neda will schedule a meeting with Judge Mitchell.

**Action item:** Maria will format the letters on letterhead.

**Action item:** April will schedule Councilmember Evan Glass to present at the September meeting.

- Steven Whitehorn will present to the Board on Trauma Informed Care in the future.
- **Action item: Leah will attend the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) meeting on July 9, 6-7 pm to read the Board's testimony.**

**VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Robin Stimson**

- Legislative calendar has been updated.
- Leah will continue to update the calendar.
- Kathryn will meet with Leah and Robin once a month to update it.

**VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz**

- The board voted to approve the brochure.
- June is Gun Violence Prevention Month.

**Action item:** Board members will take a picture of themselves wearing orange and send it to Leah so she can post them on Board's Facebook page.

**IX. Betty Ann Krahnke (BAK) Visit – Rafiah Prince**

- Only 3 Board members took the tour of BAK. Due to low attendance, another tour will be scheduled.

**Action item:** Rafiah will reschedule once COVID-19 restrictions are over.

**X. VSAB Directory update - Rafiah Prince**

- Once approved it will be posted on the website with a press release to follow.

**ACTION ITEM: Rafiah will follow up with Mary to get it approved.**

**XI. Update on Request For Proposal (RFP) for Abused Persons Program (APP) Abuser Intervention Program offender groups - Rafiah Prince**

- A new contract is being negotiated.
- They are still looking for a secure, encrypted and untraceable venue to provide these services to victims and protect our victims.

**XII. County Policy change on alcohol policy**

- Kathryn states there are no updates to the March 27, 2020, letter online.
- The Board will monitor it and if there were red flags then they would take action.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rafiah will follow up and see where they are at now, to issue licenses to private stores.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

July 23, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM