

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

July 28, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Heather Thompson, and David Young.

Members Absent: Larry Center Ashley N. Mack, Reem Sharaf and Meshon Watkins.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno

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

Guests: Detective John Witherspoon

I. Additions to Agenda

- Safe Passage Center will provide a tour in September.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Brian Koosed

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

III. Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2022, meeting– Brian Koosed

- The June 23, 2022, Minutes were approved.

IV. Police Meeting and Human Trafficking presentation by Detective John Witherspoon – Brian Koosed

- Brian Koosed introduced Detective John Witherspoon.
- Presentation on Victims' Investigation Division by Detective John Witherspoon.
- Detective John Witherspoon presented on Identifying High Risks Victims.
- Investigation Division includes missing, run away, and abducted children, custody cases and human trafficking investigations.
- In 2014 there were 12,000 missing children's cases according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited children (NCMEC).
- There has been an increased in runaway cases since COVID-19 started.
- Missing and Runaway effects on children: drug use, poor school performance, home issues, and behavioral issues.
- The Victim's Investigation Division needs assistance with residential, behavioral, substance abuse, long-term and short-term placement for victims of sexual abuse.
- Familial trafficking is on the rise.
- There is a transportation Gap.
- Resources need to be spread-out within the community.
- Recurrent kids are most of the population for the Victim's Investigation Division.

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Progress on Biennial Survey of Service Providers; Sections of Report that can be written now- Kathryn, Neda Bolourian, and others

- Neda Bolourian, Leah Schwartz, Wendy Ayala, Kathryn Pontzer have been working on different sections for the annual report.
- Larry Center and David Koosed have been working on editing the sections of the Annual report.
- Kathryn Pontzer will send a summary for the Legislative co-chair report and housing sections to Wendy Ayala and Leah Schwartz.
- Wendy Ayala and Meshon Watkins will follow up regarding the service provider's questionnaires.

VI. Executive Subcommittee update (30 Minutes) - Kathryn, Neda

- Transportation for victims of crime may be added to the Board's Budget Priorities.
- Housing is one of the Board's Priorities.
- Homicide survival handbook will be updated.
- Setting up meeting with Dr. Raymond Crowel to discuss the Board priorities.
- Present the need for transportation to Dr. Raymond Crowel
- Present the numbers of caseloads and the need of therapists to serve those caseloads.
- Case Management is challenging.
- Dr. Rafiah Prince can set up the meeting with Dr. Raymond Crowel for the board to meet with him.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update (15 Minutes) – Kathryn

- Be prepared for the meeting with Leslie Frey by September 2022.
- Research board's priorities to present and support.
- Provide Lesly Frey letters on Boards priorities by December.
- Earl Stoddard Assistant Chief Administrative Officer at Montgomery County Government is the ex-officio of the Victim Services Advisory Board VSAB.
- Montgomery County Government Youth Intervention Group.
- Kathryn will get more information about the Youth Hard Intervention Group.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah

- Show Board support.
- Picture was taken for the facebook page.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- No meeting in August

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

September 22, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM