

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

September 22, 2022

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Ashley N. Mack, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf Heather Thompson, and David Young.

Members Absent: Wendy Ayala, and Meshon Watkins.

Ex-Officio Members: Dolores Briceno

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the Agenda.

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 July 28, 2022, meeting– Brian Koosed

- The July 28, 2022, Minutes were approved.

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

- The Annual Report is due on October 27th.
- Service Provider questionnaire will be revised.
- Brian Koosed and Leah Schwartz will provide updates for the COVID-19 section.
- Statements and pictures for the Annual Report will be provided.
- Annual Report will keep its format from previous years.

V. Executive Subcommittee update - Kathryn, Neda

- Priorities for testimony were discussed.
- Victim compensations fund increase.
- Testimony will be in person.
- Neda Bolourian or Brian Koosed will give testimony on October 27th.
- Board members will meet with Council Members during Testimony.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee update – Kathryn, Neda, Rafiah Prince

- Board members will present the Legislation at the next Board meeting.
- Priorities for the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault MCASA and the State's Attorneys Office SAO will be presented.
- Outreach to providers and Legislations to support will be discussed.
- Board Members will prepare the letters and follow up with the proceeding of supporting Bills.
- At the December meeting Board members will vote on the bills to support.
- Support letters will be sent to Lesley Frey by December.

- By October meeting Board Members will have a list of fifteen to twenty Bills.

VII. Human Trafficking Meeting-

- Education packages containing information about human trafficking, sexting, cyberbullies, etc.
- Mental health awareness week of October 10-15.
- Montgomery County Public Schools MCPS resource fair student and mental health staff.
- A Meeting with Dr. Crowel and Dr. Santiago to be scheduled.
ACTION ITEM: Dr. Rafiah will send an email to facilitate the meeting.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah

- October is The National Crime Prevention Month
- October is the Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- October is the International Month of Non-Violence
- The Maryland Coalition and the Family Justice Center do events to support victims of domestic violence.
- Mental Health Organizations provide information on self-care awareness and wellness for their staff.
- Homicide survivors project.
ACTION ITEM: Dr. Rafiah will update APP and VASAP brochures for Court purposes.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Please remember to visit our Facebook page.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

October 27, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM