

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