

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 27, 2019

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Liz Briganty Vidal.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Annabelle Gerendasy for Ellen Alexander and Michael Subin.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Rebecca Marcolini.

Guest Speakers: Russell Butler and Christopher Quasebarth.

Guests: Drena Reaves-Bey and Richard Shermanski.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the Agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The May 23, 2019 Minutes are approved with minor edits regarding Sorell's reporting back to the Board from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) Meetings.

III. Presentation – Russell Butler Executive Director of the Crime Victims Resource Center and Christopher Quasebarth.

- Stephanie Roper was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 1982. Her parents created The Stephanie Roper Foundation to provide assistance to victims and the Stephanie Roper committee to help change laws. In 1985 Christopher Quasebarth began advising the advocates and the victims. In 2003, Roberta Roper resigned as Executive Director and Russell Butler took over.
- They are significantly funded by grants; all of their services are free with the exception of appeals and appeal attorneys. They have a list of attorneys that are pro bono.
- They focus on the bills that are related to victims: restitution, compensation focus exclusively on the criminal side.
- Nadja adds that there is no privacy for victims of crime of sexual assault, CICB requests all the papers including photographs and rape kits from the victim. This violates our victim's privacy.
- If you find which committee will get the bill, try to get to them. You want to make sure who ever does this is going to put your bill in a higher priority and he suggests that you draft the bill as narrow as possible in order for it to be passed.
- When he drafts a bill, he thinks of the judges, States Attorney's Office and law enforcement and tries to consider the people involved. A lot of the work needs to be done before legislative sessions starts when you can catch them. During the session is too late, key is finding the right sponsors.

IV. Facebook Presentation - Social Media/Public Affairs Sub-Committee

- The Facebook/Social Media/Public Affairs Sub-Committee will present at the July meeting.
- Reem had a question about crowd funding, Nadja stated this is a question for Raymond.
Action item: VSAB Co-chairs will ask when they meet with him.

V. Staff Updates/Community Education Grant Funding

- Nadja announced Dr. Raymond Crowel, the new HHS Director, effective July 1, 2019. Scott Green will be Acting BHCS Chief.
- Nadja applauds the Board, for their County Council outreach. Linda McMillen asked specific questions regarding the budget.
- We lost the Community Education Grant this year. It was awarded to only four Rape Crisis Programs. This funding allowed for the VASAP Community Educator to visit high schools and present on sexual violence to 10th graders. We use to get \$20,000.00 – \$16,000.00 for the Community Educator and \$4,000.00 for PR/ Educational Outreach.

VI. Executive Sub-committee Update (10) – April Marrone & Robin Stimson

- April and Robin presented the Board priorities at the quarterly Boards and Commissions meeting with Victoria Buckland, acting Director of HHS.

VII. Annual Report Update – April Marrone

- The Board has approved the layout of the FY19 Annual report.

VIII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The Board thanked Anita Pinto for her service to the Board and her work on the Annual Report and the Directory.

Adjournment 8:30 PM
Next Meeting: July 25, 2019
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM