

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2019

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

Members Absent: Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Sorell Schwartz, Alana Ward and Steven Whitehorn.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Annabelle Gerendesy (for Ellen Alexander), Rebecca Marcolini and Michael Subin.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Teresa Bennett.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to Agenda

1. Elder Abuse, Rebecca

- Adult Protective Services show a 20% increase in elder abuse in Montgomery County. Funding is needed for more investigators to investigate financial exploitation of the elderly.
- HB1076 allows professionals to testify on behalf of victims of elder abuse, due to deterioration of mental capacity.
- Nadja says that there are currently two separate Boards that deal with elder abuse.
- The Board should liaison with the Public Guardianship Board and the Aging and Disability Board.

2. Annual Report, April

- April wants to do the VSAB annual report annually, so she wants the Board member's bio for the annual report.
- **Action item:** April will send a template to add member Bios and photos to add to the annual report.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January 24, 2019 and February 28, 2019 minutes were approved.

III. Possible VSAB Meeting Time Change Discussion

- Due to different reasons, the Board approved meetings to begin at 6:30 pm, starting on April 25, 2019.

IV. Board Expectation and Sub Committees Discussion – Robin and April

- The chair of the subcommittees will be responsible for meetings reporting to the board. If the chair can't attend, they should designate someone in the subcommittee to chair.

Action item: Maria will send the updated subcommittee descriptions and members.

V. Executive Sub Committee updates, April

- April sent letters outlining VSAB's 3 priorities to County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President, Nancy Navarro, Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Raymond Crowel and Acting HHS Director, Victoria Buckland. The priorities: 1) Resolve housing issues for victims of domestic violence. 2) Increase funding for domestic violence offender groups. 3) Restoration of trauma services staff to previous levels of service.

Action item: April and Robin will meet in April with Sidney Katz, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, will meet with Linda McMillan who is a Council staff member, and with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz.

Action item: April will present the budget testimony to the County Council on April 8, 2019.

- April met with Chuck Short regarding the Fleet Street properties. Unfortunately, there is still nothing that can be done. Chuck Short will look further into this issue.

VI. Legislative Sub Committee updates, Robin

- No updates.
- Kathryn would like to meet with legislators on behalf of the board. Nadja suggested that Legislator Ms. Kathleen Dumais could present to the Board. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) devotes an entire meeting on the legislative sessions. They are held every other month on the 4th Wednesday at 7:30 am; next meeting is on May 20, 2019. The meeting is held at the lobby of the Executive Office Building.
Action item: Kathryn will reach out to Ms. Dumais to come speak to the Board.
- **Action item:** Robin will ask Russell Butler to present to the Board on how to prepare for the next legislative session.

VII. Directory Sub Committee updates, Anita

- Anita has removed information on hours, eligibility and payments. April has added the hyperlinks.
- They will share information through a Gmail account that was created to share the information, then the final version will be sent by email to support staff.
- Nadja wanted to know who was vetting the individual providers and the Board decided that due to liability, they will be removed from the directory.
Action item: April will add hyperlinks and remove the individual providers.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Sub Committee updates, Sally

- No updates.

IX. Homeless Coalition Meeting, Robin

- Robin attended the Homeless Coalition meeting. She reports that all the coalitions in the County aimed to have zero homelessness.
- Organizers will be coming up with a summary and plans of action.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

Adjournment 9 PM
Next Meeting: April 25, 2019
6:30 – 8:30 PM