

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

October 24, 2019

Attendance: Neda Bolourian; Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal; Ronald Cohen; Cinder Cooper Barnes; Amos Hicks III; Brian Koosed; Jessica J. Leslie; April Marrone; Kathryn Pontzer; Sally Reid; Leah Schwartz; Sorell Schwartz; Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson; Kecia Lopes; Juanita Rogers; Reem Sharaf.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Annabelle Gerendasy for 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

- The September 26, 2019 minutes were approved.

III. Service provider interviews - April Marrone

- The service provider assigned members the interviews to be completed by February.

Action item: Maria will email the updated list to board.

IV. VSAB Directory update - Rafiah Prince

- Rafiah presented to the board the progress of the online version of the VSAB Provider Directory.
- There will be a press release when its finished.

Action item: Robin will draft an acknowledgement letter to Mary Anderson, the Public Information Officer Health and Human Services, for her assistance in doing the online version.

V. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson

a. Legislative committee path forward

- Members are to have interests and legislative activities, separated by months, main themes and follow up with members.
- The subcommittee members are to compile information, eliminate duplicates, deadline for the draft is December 14, 2019.

b. Meeting with Melanie Wegner

- Robin, Kathryn and Rafiah attended this meeting on October 22, 2019, to meet with Melanie Wegner and Leslie Frey to talk about the role the Board can play during the legislative season. In addition, what the process is for the Board and their advocacy efforts.
- The legislative Process Overview for VSAB was handed out to the board. This includes the advocacy request form which is to be completed if the board is meeting with delegates or elected officials. This form is required for approval before testimony in Annapolis.

VI. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates - Sally Reid

- The Board wore purple in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Action item: a photo of the board will be posted on Facebook page.
- The VSAB brochure will be revised.

- The wants a VSAB tablecloth and also promotional items such as t-shirts and give a ways for events. Rafiah said there is no funding for promotional items or advertisement.
- Robin showed her magnetic name tag and suggested getting those for the Board for when they go to events.
- Leah once again asked if you know of an event let the Public Affairs subcommittee know as soon as possible as they need to get permission.
- The subcommittee is also asking to print out the Service Provider Directory to hand out at events for people to know about services.

Action item: Maria to look into pricing for reusable magnetic nametags for the board members.

VII. Executive Subcommittee updates - April Marrone

- a. Funding community outreach educator update
 - Raymond Crowell is very confident that he can get the funding for this position.
- b. Department of General Services meeting
 - Greg Ossont from the Department of General Services is re-scoping the project to fix the Fleet Street Properties.
 - The fleet street housing was not earmarked for domestic violence victims, so once repaired they will be bid out to other programs, which means that domestic violence victims will have to compete with other clients (veterans, homeless etc).
- c. Interagency Commission to Homelessness Continuum of Care Domestic Violence (IACH CoC DV) bonus project funding and point system
 - Kathryn met with Nili Soni and Amanda Harris from IACH regarding homelessness for families. They talked to them on the differences between transitional and permanent housing.
 - The Board did agree to working with the Family Justice Center (FJC) and Court Watch to support the Feet Street Properties being used for domestic violence victims.

VIII. Reminder to start getting profile pictures for new members - April Marrone

- For those board members still missing their profile pictures, please send them in.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Rafiah distributed the letter sent to Montgomery County residents regarding the privatizing of alcohol stores. In the past the Board has advocated against privatization.
- The Board will make a decision if they want to continue to advocate.

Action item: Rafiah will send the board letters showing where the Board opposed in the past.

Adjournment 8:38 PM

Next Meeting: December 5, 2019, 6:30 - 8:30 PM