

## VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 26, 2019

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian; Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal; Quintaria Brunson; Ronald Cohen; Cinder Cooper Barnes; Amos Hicks III; Brian Koosed; Jessica J. Leslie; Kecia Lopes; April Marrone; Kathryn Pontzer; Sally Reid; Juanita Rogers; Reem Sharaf; Sorell Schwartz; Robin Stimson.

**Members Absent:** Leah Schwartz

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Annabelle Gerendasy for Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

**Guests:** Drena Reaves-Bey.

**Support Staff:** Rafiah Prince.

### I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the Agenda.

### II. Approval of Minutes

- The July 25, 2019 approved unanimously without objection after motion and seconding.

### III. New Member Introduction:

- Jessica Leslie, National Sexual Assault Hotline Director; VAWA/IVAWA

### Sub-Committee Discussion and Assignments:

- New VSAB Members were assigned to the sub-committees as follows:
  - Executive/Budget Sub-Committee: Brian Koosed
  - Legislative Sub-Committee: Quintaria Brunson, Amos Hicks, Jessica Leslie, and Juanita Rogers.
  - Public Affairs, Education & Events Sub-Committee: Neda Bolourian.

### IV. Discussion of Service Provider Questions, including game plan and assignment of different service provider interviews:

- Form Service Provider Questions approved unanimously without objection after motion and seconding.
- Game Plan/Timing: Plan is to conduct service provider interviews by January/early February, so that data is ready for inclusion in Annual Report due in June.
- Organization Assignments: VSAB members were given the following assigned organizations for conducting service provider interviews:
  - o Police Victim's Advocates: Jessica Leslie
  - o Identity (focused on Hispanic community): Rebecca Marcolini.
  - o Shady Grove Adventist: Neda Bolourian
  - o SALI: Quintaria Brunson
  - o JCADA, Safe Passages Program: Brian Koosed
  - o Montgomery County Sheriff's Office: Amos Hicks III
  - o State's Attorney: Cinder Cooper Barnes
  - o Chesapeake: Sally Reid
  - o Family Justice Center: Kecia Lopes
  - o Korean Community Services: April Marrone
  - o House of Ruth: Ron Cohen
  - o RAINN: Juanita Rogers
  - o Safe Passage: Reem Sharaf
  - o Betty Ann Krahne: Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal
  - o Pre-Trial Services: Robin Stimson
  - o Unassigned as of now: Treehouse, Catholic Charities, Ayuda, CASA de Maryland

V. **Executive/Budget Sub-Committee Update à Discussion of Upcoming Meetings/Business:**

- VASAP Staff and Management Meetings: The following VSAP members will attend the November 14 meeting being held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (staff then management) à Robin Stimson, Ronald Cohen, April Marrone.
- BCC Meeting: October 2, 2019 à Meeting with Dr. Crowll was canceled.
- HHS Meeting of County Council: October 17, 2019. April Marrone and Robin Stimson will be presenting on VSAB's top priorities. A discussion of those priorities, including issues arising from the repurposing of the Fleet Street project, ensued. Testimony will focus on Housing issues and offender group funding.
- December VSAB Meeting: Expected to have Gabe Albornoz, HHS Sub-Committee head, as our special guest.

VI. **Legislative Sub-Committee Update:**

- Discussion led by Kathryn Pontzer on Legislative Sub-Committee issues, including: (i) how the calendar of typical County year sessions works; (ii) VASB's desire to be prepared to support the MCASA reception in Annapolis in January 2020, with agenda being set in October/November 2019; and (iii) educating new VSAB members on legislative "dos and don'ts" and record requirements

VII. **Public Affairs/Events Sub-Committee Update:**

- Discussion on October 2019 being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, other calendaring items, and devising a social media strategy for the final quarter of 2019 designed to raise community awareness of VASAP/VSAB.

VIII. **Announcements/Comments/New Business:**

- Sorell Schwartz presented on the District Court report on forming a Mental Health Court docket in Montgomery County for mental competency issues, noting that the Montgomery County Circuit Court is working on a similar approach. Mr. Schwartz noted that there may be a place for victims advocates in the Mental Health Court docket and suggested this might be an avenue for obtaining additional VASAP funding. VSAB agreed to follow up on this and on upcoming Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee meetings.
- Rafiah Prince presented on: (i) the "Johns Bill" that is resulting in funds being directed to VASAP; (ii) the Directory of Service Providers being built into the VASAP website for ease of use, to be live by early October 2019, subject to County Executive approval; and (iii) upcoming presentation to VASAP staff by the Executive Director of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.  
Next Meeting: Thursday September 26, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM