

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)
February 27, 2020

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Amos Hicks III, April Marrone and Sally Reid.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Rebecca Marcolini and Ellen Alexander.

Guest: Caroline Sturgis

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- The Board Thanked Sorell for 7 years of service. Also, thanked Cinder for her service to the Board.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The January 23, 2020 minutes were approved.

III. Executive Subcommittee updates – Robin Stimson

- Kathryn and Brian will meet with Craig Rice's Chief of staff on Friday, February 28, 2020.
- Meeting with Gabe Albornoz to discuss the Fleet Street properties, and the need of having victim assistants in the court room from both Trauma Services and the Family Justice Center (FJC).
- Robin reports the Family independent initiative had success in other parts of the country, but she does not see it working with our population domestic violence victims have unique housing needs.
- Kathryn met with Hanz Reemer, he was very focused on the housing; and was interested in transitional housing, through the Rapid rehousing program.
- Robin met with Caroline Sturges – Assistant Chief Administrative officer replacing Mike Subin. They spoke about the RFP for the male offender program.
- Letter of support from County judges, the Board approve it. Neda will present the letter to Judge Mitchell. Robyn will also reach out to her at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) meeting on March 25, 2020.
- Reminder of the Inter Agency Coalition for Homelessness (IACH) testimony will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 3-6 pm at the Rocville Library. First floor conference room. Brian and Liz will testify.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council - The Board approved the handed-out testimony, April will testify on March 12, 5-7 pm at the Family Justice Center (FJC).

IV. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson

- Legislative support letter(s) - bills of concern reviewed and approved.
- Legislative calendar update – Robin is working on events and meetings.
Action Item: Robin will finalize and send it to the Board in two weeks.
- Kathryn – Bills SB 212, 210, 230 and 206 Are Bills that the Board could support. A description of the bills was distributed. Brian moved to approve it. The Board approved supporting the Bills and the letter.
Action Item: The Board will coordinate a trip to Annapolis within the next two weeks.

- Commission for Women Legislative Briefing – requested for Montgomery County Commission for Women representative Jodi Finkelstien to attend a Board meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Robin requested a presentation on victim services for Native American people.
Action Item: Rafiah will ask Steven Whitehorn to present.
- Robin suggested all experience time in a court room to listen to the Protective orders hearings.
Action Item: Rafiah will coordinate with our VA's to attend.

V. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Liz Briganty Vidal

- Vote on VSAB brochure – Liz will update the brochure and will send it to the Board for approval.
- The County agreed to purchase pins. The t-shirts were approved but the Board must pay for them with their own funds.
Action item: Rafiah will work on the pins.
- Choose Respect Fest Event is on March 29, 2020, 1 – 4 pm at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center. The Board will have a table.
- April is Sexual Assault Awareness month.
Action item: Wear teal blue at the next Board meeting so a photo of all members can be taken.

VI. Board vote on Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) representative – Robin Stimson

- The Board voted to send Robin as the VSAB representative to the CJCC meetings held every other month on the first Wednesday of that month. The next meeting is on March 25, 2020 at 7:30 am
- **VSAB Directory update - Rafiah**
- VSAB Annual Report Members
 - Interviews and answers are due to April ASAP.

VII. BAK field trip - Rafiah Prince

- Will be on March 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

VIII. Update on RFP for (APP) Offender Groups – Rafiah

- The RFP is located at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pro/contract.html>. RFP # 1110701 bid is opening March 5.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The Board thanked Sorell and Cinder Cooper Barnes for their service to the Board.

Adjournment 8:35 PM

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 PM