

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)
May 28, 2020

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Board members must request travel and dependent care reimbursements to Maria to later than June 8.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The February 27, 2020 minutes were approved.

III. Virtual Meeting Procedures and Discussion – Robin Stimson

- Robin read the rules and procedures for having a virtual Board meeting:
 - The chair will call the roll to establish a quorum.
 - Members need to identify themselves when they are talking.
 - Members may be asked to identify anyone who is present with them during the call.
 - The public may be asked to mute the call on their end to avoid interruptions.
 - The public may be muted by the chair.
 - Public bodies might wish to consider including any ground rules in the meeting notice.

IV. Comments on COVID-19 impact on victims - Rafiah Prince

- Trauma Services has been very busy providing therapy via phone to victims.
- Volunteer face to face outreaches were suspended. Outreach is being made via phone directly to the victim by the volunteer. Victims can go through a separate entrance instead of through the Emergency Room.
- The selected video therapy was not approved.

V. VSAB Board Co-Chair Election Discussion – Robin Stimson/April Marrone/Rafiah Prince

- Robin and April have been the co-chairs for 2 years and will step down in June. Robin will remain a Board member but will resign as chair because she is now on another board. April will resign as chair and not renew her term when it ends in December.
- Robin thinks a co-chair is very helpful due to the time commitment it requires.
- April says as Chair, you must do the following: create an Agenda, facilitate the meetings, oversee the Executive subcommittee, and coordinate with the HHS staff. April will offer documents to help guide the next Chair.
- Kathryn has been nominated. Members will vote for the new chair at the June meeting or via email.

VI. Annual Report - April Marrone

- April would like to finalize the Annual Report by the next meeting. Brian, Leah and Neda will assist April.

Action Item: Each subcommittee will send in a paragraph reporting on their activities from the last year.

VII. Executive Subcommittee Updates - April Marrone

- Kathryn and Brian spoke with Council President, Sidney Katz, via phone on March 18, 2020. They have put together a draft for the Budget advocacy meeting.
- Councilmember Evan Glass would like to attend a VSAB Board meeting.
- Meetings have been made with Councilmembers, Gabe Albornoz, Craig Rice, Hanz Reemer and the with the County Executive's staff.
- The County Executive's proposed budget includes an additional full-time therapist position for VASAP. We have two supervisor retirements this year.
- Brian testified at the Inter-Agency Coalition for Homelessness ((IACH) meeting and was well received.
- The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) meeting in March was cancelled due to Covid-19. The next meeting will be in July for a board member to attend. For more information:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/dvcc/>

VIII. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Robin Stimson

- Robin is still working on the June calendar.
- HB 233- "Criminal Law - Assault in the First Degree - Suffocation or Strangulation has passed. This will make strangulation a first-degree felony assault.
- Unfortunately, the marital rape bill did not pass. The Board will support this bill next year.

IX. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz and Liz Briganty-Vidal

- The VSAB brochure has some redundancy, the meeting dates needs to be updated, the meeting location should be removed, and the description of VASAP should be different.
- **Action Item: Send your feedback, edits to Leah by June 2.**
- June is gun violence prevention month, please wear orange to the June meeting. We will take a group picture. Leah and Reem were nominated to head this subcommittee.

X. CJCC Meeting – Robin Stimson

- The March meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to a virtual meeting on May 27. The courts will reopen on June 5. Our Victim Assistants will be allowed in the courts but with the 25% occupancy, they may not be allowed. Chief Jones reported an increase in strangulation and homicide cases.
- There is a backlog on protective orders. All judges are presiding all day, every day. Due to the 30-day threshold, priority is for grand jury trials. Evictions will be allowed beginning July 20.

XI. VASAP/APP Staff Appreciation – ‘Thank You Note’ from the Board – Robin Stimson

- Liz will work on a thank you to Trauma Services via a video incorporating a song or signs.
Action item: Please send photos, and/or notes to Liz due by June 4.

XII. Betty Ann Krankhe visit– Rafiah Prince

- Will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment 8:45 PM
Next Meeting will be on June 25, 2020
from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM