

# VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

October 22, 2020

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Robin Stimson, Reem Sharaf.

**Members Absent:** Quintaria Brunson

**Ex-Officio Members:** Dolores Briceno, Annabelle Gerendasy, Rebecca Marcolini

**Guest:** Steven Whitehorn

**Support Staff:** Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

## I. Additions to Agenda

No additions.

## II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Kathryn Pontzer

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:  
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.

## III. Approval of Minutes from September 2020 meeting

- The September 24, 2020 minutes were approved.

## IV. Welcoming the new State's Attorney representative

- Rebecca introduced her replacement Dolores Briceno to the Board.

## V. Guest Speaker: Steven Whitehorn, Public Health Advisor, Division of Behavioral Indian Health Services:

- Powerpoint presentation was shared: *Domestic Violence: Pathways of Healing During the COVID Pandemic*.

## VI. Executive Subcommittee updates- Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- They were invited to the County Council Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee Work Session on Policy Issues to testify on November 18, 2020. The one-page testimony will focus on the impact of the pandemic, the lack of transitional and permanent housing for domestic violence victims.
- For numbers and stories, Rafiah suggested they read the Bethesda Beat.
- Councilman Evan Glass will provide a proclamation to the Board, to acknowledge the work the Board does on behalf of victims, on October 27, 2020 at 9:30 am.
- The Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CJCC) October meeting focused on the voting boxes being tampered with, steps to ensure safe elections and how law enforcement will assist for protests or celebrations. There are juvenile justice prevention efforts for trouble individuals, to try to break the school to prison pipelines.

**Action Item:** Board members will send Kathryn data, antidotes, or resources for the testimony.

## **VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer**

- They are preparing for the 2021 General Assembly & Outreach to Legislative Offices. Kathryn reached out to 3 offices. Senator Michael Lee is supporting Bill 230, it will make it possible for married people to file claims against their legal spouse at the time of the alleged rape or sexual offense. The board will look into whether they will support Senator Smith's initiative on police accountability.
- MCASA will make a presentation to the Board at the next meeting on December 3, 2020.

## **VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz**

- Thank you to Ron and Jessica for sending photos wearing the color purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> is Giving Tuesday; Leah wants to raise money for VASAP's Crime Victim's Compensation fund through Facebook.
- They are excited to have Amos join their subcommittee.
- The MCFJC Foundation is having a 11K walk to help end domestic violence. The cost is \$30. <https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/MD/YourTown/VirtualFJC11k>. Please share the link on your Facebook page.
- **Action Item: Please send events, resources, or calls to actions to the subcommittee so they can update the calendar.**

## **IX. Annual Report Update – Juanita Rogers**

- Once Rafiah update the table, it will be complete.
- Juanita wants to start preparing for the next Annual report which will be next July 2021, it will not include the survey.

**Action Item: Rafiah will update the Annual Report.**

**Action Item: Rafiah will contact Mary Anderson to upload the Service directory.**

## **X. Update on New Members – Rafiah Prince**

- Four new members were appointed this week. They are expected to attend the next meeting.
- There are still three vacancies.
- Those members who want to extend their appointments must do so before December.

**Action Item: Rafiah will give instructions for extending appointments to members whose terms are ending.**

## **XI. Announcements/Comments/New Business**

- Thank you to Ron and Rebecca for their service to the Board and for their commitment to working with victims of crime.

Adjournment 8:30 PM  
Next Meeting:  
December 3, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM