

## **VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)**

February 25, 2021

**Attendance:** Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Jill Pargamont, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf and Robin Stimson

**Members Absent:** Quintaria Brunson and David Young

**Ex-Officio Members:** Dolores Briceno and Annabelle Gerendasy

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Ellen Alexander

**Guest:** Rolando Santiago

**Support Staff:** Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis

### **I. Additions to Agenda**

- No additions.

### **II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers**

- 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**

- The December 3, 2020 minutes were approved.

### **IV. Welcome Rolando Santiago, Chief, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services- Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer**

- Dr. Santiago, DHHS Director, spoke about the priorities for crime victims in the County, including the need for more transitional housing for domestic violence victims.
- An overview of Trauma Services was provided.
- There has been an increase in crime victims.
- Budget cuts are coming and the Board is only asking to maintain the resources for Trauma Services or add staff to meet the demand for services created by the pandemic.

**ACTION ITEM: The Board is committed in communicating information and resources for those who experience domestic violence.**

### **V. Board Member spotlight – Jessica Leslie**

- Jessica Leslie, Director of RAINN, Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, spoke about local sexual assault programs providing resources and trauma informed trainings.
- RAINN addresses prevention of sexual violence and provides assistance to survivors.
- Victims are using GOOGLE search and phone APPS to find crisis intervention services. Maintaining their anonymity helps victims to ask questions and seek help.
- It is very important to train the police, teachers, first responders and others who are likely to encounter victims.

**VI. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers and Kathryn Pontzer**

- Neda, Kathryn and Rafiah meet with Councilmember Will Jawando staffer. In the meeting the boards priorities were discussed.
- Neda's meeting with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz was cancelled.
- Neda is still attempting to set up a meeting with Councilmember Tom Hucker.
- Brian meet with Councilmembers Craig Rice. Councilmember Rice will try request more funding and appropriate resources for crime victims.
- On March the 11, Mark Elrich is hosting his weekly COVID-19 virtual media briefing.
- Robin attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meeting which focused on the juvenile diversion program in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

**ACTION ITEM: Neda will send information to the Board about the meeting with Councilmember Jawando.**

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

- Kathryn is still drafting the letters of support for 7 bills.

**ACTION ITEM: The Board should give feedback to Kathryn to help finalize the letters.**

**VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz and Robin Stimson**

- There has been an increase in visitors due to the amounts of postings on Facebook.
- February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness month.
- Webinars can be added to address the housing need to help residents become more informed.

**ACTION ITEM: Board members should send possible posts to Leah.**

**IX. Annual Report Approval/Planning for Upcoming Report - Rafiah/Chairs**

- There is a need for help with the Annual Report.

**ACTION ITEM: Board members interested in helping with the Annual Report should email Jessica and Rafiah.**

Next Meeting:

March 25, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM