

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

January 28, 2021

Attendance: Ellen Alexander, Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Jill Pargamont, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Reem Sharaf, Leah Schwartz, Robin Stimson, David Young

Members Absent: Drena Reaves-Bey

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno

Support Staff: Maria Carzon, 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. Board Member Insights & Experiences with Victim Services

- Robin is a manager for Mother Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). They work with families who have been affected by an impaired driver.
- Robin spoke about legislation to strengthen Noah's Law to allow an Ignition interlock device for PBJ cases and to increase the penalty from 10 years maximum in jail.
- Mr. Center was a volunteer who worked with sexual assault and domestic violence victims. He has felt the power of their stories through workshops, conferences, and input from victims. He feels the County provides excellent services to victims and is optimistic about the future. But there is still a lot to accomplish in the pandemic.

V. Review of Subcommittees and Signing up – Rafiah Prince

- The subcommittees have been updated as follows: Legislative, Executive, Public Affairs, and the Annual Report Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: All new Board members will choose which subcommittee they would like to join at the next meeting.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers and Kathryn Pontzer

- Neda met with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz. He said there will be a budget shortfall due to COVID-19 expenses.
- A meeting with Council member Will Jawando is scheduled for February 16.

- The Board will review Bill 4-21, which would create restrictions on ghost guns, which are untraceable by law enforcement.
 - Brian met with Council members Sidney Katz and Craig Rice.
 - Robin attended the Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CJCC) meeting in January. The main concern was getting covid vaccines available for court personnel.
 - Judge Ferrati presented on possible legislation for PG County to review prison sentences for juvenile offenders and to try using more prevention methods.
 - Police reform task force reports will be released to the public next week.
- ACTION ITEM: Rafiah will notify the County if the Board wants to support the legislation Bill 4-21.**

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- The Board would like to send a letter of support to all members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee to support SB43/HB411 which prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in sexual acts with those involved in an investigation.
- **ACTION ITEM: Kathryn will draft a letter.**
- The letter of support for SB250/HB147 which would repeal the spousal defense to sexual assault has been sent to members of the Senate and House committees. The Board would like to use the letter to send to each member of the Montgomery County Delegation and to President of the Senate, Bill Ferguson.
- The Board is watching SB413/HB514 to increase the required distribution from \$2 million to \$8 million to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Funding and HB31 to increase revenue from the courts to be earmarked for rental assistance programs.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates

- COVID resources and events will be posted on Facebook.
- Nadja Cabello, Director of Trauma Services will receive the Visionary Award from MCASA.

IX. Annual Report Approval/Planning for Upcoming Report

- The Annual Report is now available on the VASAP website.
- The goal is to have the next report ready by July.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Board members should think of creative ideas, photos, graphics to make the report appealing.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The Board is still trying to meet with the Raymond Crowel, Amanda Harris, and Rolando Santiago.
- Dorne Hill is the new HHS representative for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC).

Next Meeting:

February 25, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM