

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

July 22, 2021

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

Members Absent: Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Anabelle Gerendasy on behalf of Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No addition to the agenda.

II. Roll Call & 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 for April 22, 2021, May 27, 2021, June 24, 2021

- The April 22, 2021, May 27, 2021 and June 24, 2021 minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight - Leah Schwartz

- Leah is a social worker and Mental Health Therapist. She focuses on Child and Family services.
- Leah decided to join the Board because she believes that is important to impact the system around us by providing services and advocating people.
- Leah shared some of the experiences she has had working with a Family who experienced domestic violence and shared that there was a lack of resources for the victims.
- Victims may not receive the help they need due to gaps between services, barriers such as language, distances, and timing for the resources available.
- Increasing mobile resources and working closely with staff at the shelters is important.
- The importance of working with VASAP connecting victims to other resources and the need of expanding the trauma team were shared.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates

- a. Report on Quarterly BCC Meeting with Dr. Crowel - Juanita Rogers
Juanita will update the Board in the next session/ opportunity.
- b. Report on CJCC Meeting -Robin Stimson
N/A

VI. Legislative Subcommittee– Kathryn Pontzer

- Members are encouraged to do their own advocacy letters and to continue with the subcommittee work.

- Board members are encouraged to help in the legislative subcommittee by taking one piece of legislation and writing a letter and tracking the progress of it.
 - Board members are encouraged to periodically search and update other Board members about the progress of certain Bills.
 - The goal is to have at least four Bills ready by September/October.
 - Members are encouraged to do research in the fall about what the Board will be supporting and posting in the near future.
 - Kathryn would like to have a meeting before the next September Board meeting to find out who would like to be a member of the subcommittee who will be active and provide the support needed.
 - Kathryn Suggested to support four bills and be more supportive and proactive in those four rather focusing on several bills.
 - Kathryn will send an email regarding the repeal spousal defense Bill.
 - Dr. Rafiah suggested to have one on one meetings with the members to have a better understanding about what the Board is doing and the its priorities.
- ACTION ITEM:** A doodle poll will be sent for the legislative subcommittee to have a meeting.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- President Biden signed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) a couple days ago which it has been shared out by the subcommittee.
- July 30th is the World day against trafficking in persons.
- Board Members are encouraged to share information with others through Facebook and emails.
- The week of September 5 -11 is the National Suicide Prevention week.
- Organizations are coming out to in person activities.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Let Leah Schwartz know about beneficial events to share.

VIII. Annual Report update - Jessica Leslie

- Jessica shared the annual report FY2020-2021.
- The report includes Front page, table of content, messages from our chairs, and the board mission.
- Membership holders is missing; members are encouraged to send the information to Jessica Leslie.
- The Betty Ann Krahne (BAK) chart for the Bridge housing in the annual report updates is missing.
- Funding increase, expansion of services and increase staffing are the Board's priorities.
- Jessica encouraged members to read through the report and provide feedback.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- There is no September Board meeting.
- ACTION ITEM:** Do a doodle poll to discuss for in person meetings for the future.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

September 24, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM