

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

March 25, 2021

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

Members Absent: Jill Pargamont and Reem Sharaf

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno

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 February 25, 2020 minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight- Leah Schwartz

- Brian is a pro bono lawyer specializing in immigration. He mentors other attorneys. He is passionate about the Board's mission and thinks there needs to be more prioritizing, helping, and funding crime victims.
- The experiences that Quintaria's daughter went through as a crime victim has motivated her to join the Board. She wants to improve resources for victims because her daughter did not get the services they were hoping and expecting to receive.
- David inquired about how the county assess services. Rafiah responded that the Department of Health and Human Services have internal customer service survey cards to help supervisors with any complaints. Also, VASAP uses PCL scales as a clinical assessment tool to show the effectiveness of treatment by showing symptom reduction in victim.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- The meeting with Councilmember Sidney Katz focused on the annual report, expanding the number of sites to perform forensic exams, and having more training to handle these cases.
- The Family Justice Center has the capacity to perform the exams but there is no funding available currently for the salary of the forensic nurse. The Board is considering whether to support any funding requests to support this.
- Leah had a meeting with the Council President, Tom Hucker and discussed housing issues. Tom stated that there is a committee working on housing issues for dv victims. Emergency housing is available but not transitional housing.

- The Board did attend last year's budget meeting. It's important for the Board to attend and share their priorities with the Council.
- Rafiah discussed the need for an electronic database for trauma services. The Department of Health and Human Services uses NexGen to house client data. Trauma Services does not use it due to privacy compliance issues which are held to a higher standard for victims of crime and domestic violence victims.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- There is legislation that wants eliminate School Resource Officers (SRO).
- The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meeting discussed the County's priority to find housing for Montgomery County residents. There is high number of evictions and lack of vaccination sites in Montgomery County compared to other counties.
- The bill to discontinue allowing drunk drivers not to get the ignition interlock device for first time offenders did not pass the Senate.
- The bill for Ghost Gun legislation is still being discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Quintaria and Kathryn will draft a letter supporting housing issues.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- Rafiah did an interview with a reporter promote resources for victims.
- Facebook has over 300 followers now, which is an increase since last year.
- April is Child Abuse Awareness and Sexual Assault Awareness month.
- Leah will share a list of events to share on social media, others are welcome to share other events.

VIII. Planning for Upcoming Annual Report – Juanita Rogers and Jessica Leslie

- Immediate help is needed to complete the annual report that is due in July 2021.

ACTION ITEM: Members interested in helping with the Annual Report should contact Juanita and Jessica.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- VSAB members Pictures need to look professional, Juanita, Jessica and Rafiah will work on it
- There was a discussion about changing the Board meetings to ZOOM instead of MS Teams.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

April 22, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM