

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

September 23, 2021

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

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson Jill Pargamont Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- Dr. Prince has two additions to the Agenda:
- Organizing interviews for new members and requesting Board members to volunteer to be in the meetings.
- Having at least two volunteers from the Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) to go with Dr. Prince to meetings on Wednesdays at the police academy regarding human trafficking.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Juanita

- 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 June 24, 2021 meeting– Juanita

- The July 22, 2021 Minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight – Leah Schwartz

- David Young shared some of the things that made him be part of the board.
- David Young has spent the last seven years working in Violent conflict helping the government to reduce conflict and improve the ability to understand conflict.
- David Young has been helping vulnerable Afghans who are coming to the US as refugees and keeping them safe.
- Afghans could be helped by the community by doing fundraisers/ donations to help them.

V. Discussion on Board Priorities for FY 2022-2023 – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Juanita, Kathryn and Dr. Prince met with Nadja Cabello, manager of Trauma Services regarding the Board's priorities.
- Kathryn Pontzer shared some of the priorities and shared Nadja's feedback.
- Priorities for HHS work Sessions with the County Council Committee are due by November 8.
- The goal is to have one page containing priorities in writing.
- The Victim Advisory Board will be scheduling to meet with the Council Executive Office and then meeting individual Council Members.

- Potential Board priorities are:
- Additional services for HHS/Trauma Services (VASAP/APP)
- Victim Advocate positions throughout the county
- Funding for community educator
- Montgomery County victim compensation fund increase
- BAK operational and ADA reform needs
- Supporting forensic exams for SA victims (further discussion with Jessica Voltz for focus on how to expand)
- Housing
- Others (Gun violence, human trafficking, crisis center funding, mental health-related concerns, etc.)
- Two highlights should be incorporated and testified in three minutes.
- Brian Koosed offered himself to testify.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates– Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Victim Electronic Health Records: The department has had meetings with different platforms providers. The department is actively trying to find the right platform. Timeline for the platform is unknown.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates– Kathryn Pontzer

- The Victim Advisory Board could support the four bills that did not pass, and the pieces of legislation that will be dropped.
- Members who would like to make connections with other offices let Kathryn Pontzer know.
- Kathryn will send a list to all board members on how to reach offices, members, and how write the letters.
- Volunteers are needed to help write letters of support, utilizing the correct format and correct writing.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- October is National Crime Prevention, Bullying prevention, Mental Health Awareness, and Domestic Violence Awareness month.
- There are plenty of events and opportunities for the Board to be part of during the Month of October.
- Leah will share a list of events happening this Month via email.
- Some events are happening in person and the Board would like members to attend events.
- Doing fundraisers and creating a collage to show the Board's participation were discussed.

IX. Annual Report Update– Jessica Leslie

- Jessica Leslie made a presentation of the updated Report.
- Dr. Prince is working on some pieces for content to be incorporated in the Annual Report.
- It was requested that members send their information and pictures to Leah to incorporate in the report.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Volunteers for the interviews the week of October 4, at least three members for each interview are needed.
- Neda, Larry, and Juanita volunteered to assist in the volunteer's interview for new members.
- David, Neda, and Juanita would like to attend the meetings at the police academy.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

October 28, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM