

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

December 07, 2023

Attendance: Shanquenetta Anderson, Wendy Ayala, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, Heather Thompson, Alan Schulman, Leah Schwartz, Jasmin Whitfield.

Members Absent: Neda Bolourian, Dolores Briceno, Reem Sharaf and David Young.

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

Support Staff: Linda Lochner and Carla Bradley.

I. Additions to Agenda

No additions to Agenda.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures – Neda Bolourian

- 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 October 26, 2023, meeting.

- The October Minutes were approved.

IV. New Executive Subcommittee Update– Brian Koosed

- Brian provides an update on the meeting with County Council members.

a. Update on Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission – Kathryn Ponzer

- The meeting consisted of many members updating their current issues but not a lot of progress was done and it would be picked back up in the January meeting.
- Judge Bonifant spoke of improving judge security and better protecting their exposure.
- Judge Koch discussed the District Court being overwhelmed by DUI's and how they would increase hours on the dockets and that dismissing cases could affect public safety.
- Kathryn also discussed how the Juvenile Justice Reform could impact police effectiveness and the impact on the community. Also, about the case of the police officer being struck by a habitual speedster and how Virginia laws are much tougher in that account.

V. Legislative Subcommittee Update– Kathryn

- Brian said Legislative Subcommittee that he will give Kathryn last years report.
- Kathryn recap to new members about the bill passage process and which bills to vote to support.
- Brian asked if they should reintroduce four bills from last session that didn't pass.
- Board Members reread and discussed and then approved several bills.

VI. Annual Report Update– Brian

- The Annual Report FY23 Victim Services Advisory Board was delivered and the board members at the meeting received a copy.

VII. Councilmember Meeting Discussion – Leah, Kathryn and Brian

- Brian provided an update on the meeting with County Council members.

- Leah suggested if they could better match board members to the interests and issues of County Council members.
- Leah talked about adding subcommittee meeting topics and dates and which board member could attend in Google Docs.
- Kathryn discussed the lack of response from County Council members and how to better engage their interest in the bills introduced.
- Wendy said she is getting a good response from County Council members on social media and it would be a good way to better connect with County Council members.

VIII. Name Discussion – All attending Members

- Brian updated new member Allen about the reason for the name change. updated subcommittee members on the reason for the name change.
- Board members did not reach an agreement at this meeting on what the new name of the subcommittee will be.

IX. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- Leah talked about getting faster approval to have a presence at public events/issues.
- Wendy raised the question about taking photos or screenshots at the public affairs/events.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- No announcements.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

January 25, 2024 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM