

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

July 27, 2023

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

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Reem Sharaf and Dolores Briceno.

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

Support Staff: Linda Lochner and Carla Bradley.

Support Staff Absent: Roselia Scotman.

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 Past Meetings- Neda Bolourian

- The minutes were approved due to quorum.

IV. New Liaison Introduction and Spotlight– Brian, Kathryn, Rosalia and Linda

- Brian Koosed introduces Rosalia Scotman as the new liaison replacing Rafiah Prince.
- Rosalia Scotman speaks of how Trauma Services serves individuals who are survivors of general crime, domestic violence, sexual assault and that they provide therapeutic services, housing assistance and victim advocacy.
- Linda Lochner states that the victim advocates are state certified and will be getting national certification, and that a huge component of program is the therapeutic services – from children to the elderly dealing with diverse crimes such as cyber-crime, stalking, harassment, and assault to elder abuse. Together with programs like the County funded compensation fund. Since 1999, the fund reimburses survivors of crime up to \$2,500 for lost wages, medical co-pay, and funeral expenses. This fund is looking to possibly increase to \$5,000.
- Brian Koosed will attend the ICH meeting next week Wednesday August 2, 2023, at Rockville Memorial Library about housing and how they overlap with our initiatives and advocate victim housing.
- Brian Koosed explained to the board members about the executive subcommittee meetings with County Council and County Executive and about advocating trauma services needs and that the meetings are winding down and will restart in December-March.

V. Executive Subcommittee Update– Brian

- Kathryn Pontzer updates the board members about yesterday's Criminal Justice Coordination Commission meeting.
- The new changes to State law about disciplinary action in police complaints and how it affects County laws and how some jurisdictions are adapting to the new laws.
- The County will communicate better with the public, how to get information out publicly through outlets like Facebook and using listening tours.
- Earl Stoddard from the County office is the liaison to the Criminal Justice Coordination Commission and asked about sub-committee structures; Judge Bonifant spoke about capacity and mental health issues; John McCarthy wants a subcommittee on juvenile crime. Department of Corrections spoke about improvements in rehabilitation and reentry; Sheriff's Office spoke of staffing, domestic violence policies.
- Challenges about limiting interrogation times, police shootings, marijuana laws, impaired driving, auto theft, etc.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee Update– Kathryn

- Kathryn Pontzer no updates on Legislative Subcommittee which will again start in September.
- Mentioned to new board members if they want orientation later.
- Brian Koosed next meeting is on September 28, 2023.

VII. Annual Report – Update on Progress and Timing– Brian/Neda

- Brian Koosed is behind on the annual report and will have a draft and a couple weeks.
- Larry Center will edit the draft.
- The deadline for August 25, 2023

VIII. Updated VSAB Handbook and Names for VASAP/APP/VSAB

- Rosalia gave the update to the board members of the official name change to Trauma Services by January 1st, 2024.
- Board members discussed the name change and the language used in the programs.

IX. Membership/Vacancies (5 Minutes) – Brian/Rose

- Brian Koosed discussed opportunities for a new board member since there are vacancies.
- Asked the board members in helping recruit new board members such as religious leaders.

X. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah

- August 30th, 2023 is World Day Against Human Trafficking.
- Community Education information on social media awareness.
- August and September, no significant public affairs.
- Leah Schwartz is going to send Neda Bolourian a list of events to attend.
- Public Affairs Community Education how to be working together with Trauma Services and other county forums.
- Neda Bolourian asked the board members to visit the Facebook page and like and share.

XI. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Kathryn Pontzer talks about reaching out to the liaison groups about mental health to come to speak about their issues.
- Leah talks about new board members spotlight and will reach out with some questions about sharing why you are here and how we can support them.

Adjournment 7:45 PM for Social Event @ Silver Diner Rio

Next Meeting:

September 28, 2023, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM