

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

May 25, 2023

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, Reem Sharaf, Leah Schwartz.

Members Absent: Heather Thompson and David Young.

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

Support Staff: Linda Lochner and Carla Bradley.

Support Staff Absent: Dr. Rafiah Prince.

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 April 27, 2023, meeting.

- The Minutes were not approved due to quorum.

IV. New Membership –

- Three members have been interviewed for the Board vacancies.
- Victim Services Advisory Board members participated in the interviews.

V. Executive Subcommittee update- Kathryn, Neda, Brian

- The Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission meeting was in person on May 24th, 2023.
- During the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission meeting members voted for a representative to be on the human trafficking prevention committee.
- Penalty for the Gun crime Bill state law has changed from 3 to 5 years first time offense.
- Gun ownership laws were discussed.
- Licensing requirements for gun ownership has changed.
- A bill holds parents accountable for access to guns in children.
- Better structure of laws for selling cannabis and driving while intoxicated.
- There is a gap in our system for juveniles who are committing felonies.
- Perpetrators are not being accountable for surrender guns.
- Juvenile crime has increased.
- Guns not being confiscated by police officers without a warrant.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Kathryn, Neda, Rafiah

- Victim Services Advisory Board members attended the Board and commission meeting “Meet and Greet Event”.
- Board members met with other county members, and councilmembers Gabe Albornoz and Sidney Katz.
- Housing matters were discussed with the head of the homelessness coordinating commission.

- Brian Koosed shared he would like to attend to the next Interagency Commission Homelessness for the Board's housing initiatives.
- Bill SB 27 - Criminal Procedure - Restorative Justice Program -this bill did not make it out of committee - much opposition - not victim-centered enough/need more safeguards MCASA, MNADV, HOR opposed, but University Of MD Law School Gender Violence Clinic supports bill.
- Bill SB 615 - Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services - Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Reporting Program – passed.
- Bill SB 789 / HB 758 - Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits - Preservation and Storage – passed.

VII. Updated Brochures and Other Materials for VASAP/APP/VSAB

- Brochures and materials updates during the next Board meeting on June 22nd, 2023.

VIII. Annual Report – Brian

- Division of labor for the annual report was discussed.
- Board member's availability to work on the annual report.
- Leah Schwartz volunteered to create a google document.
- Board members will start developing a draft for the annual report by July meeting
- Different sections hop on volunteer, star working on drafts not data analysis is not required approve with July meeting.
- Do not have August, go from there a lot of it is already.

IX. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah

- June is gun violence prevention and awareness month. Permission to go from Rafiah.
- The board can go on behalf of the board or behalf of the program.
- Leah will send out an email for some events in the middle of June, to join with the board representation. Wellness fairs summer will send some sing ups.
- Either another social or in person meeting in a social setting July meeting on person be able to talk about enjoy each others company.
- July meeting in zoom
- Mid July social event for the board
- Possible July meeting will be at piccard in the conference room

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

N/A

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

June 22, 2023, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM