

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

December 1, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Heather Thompson.

Members Absent: Ashley N. Mack, and David Young

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria Carzon

Guest: Nazeefa Hossain

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 September 22, 2022, meeting.

The Minutes were approved.

IV. Executive Subcommittee update - Kathryn, Neda, Brian

a. Update on Meeting with Dr. Crowel – Brian/Neda/Rafiah

i. Holistic Health

They had an interesting meeting with Dr. Crowel 2 weeks before Thanksgiving and before his resignation. Testimony to the county counsel he is pushing the county to move towards a more holistic view and approach to HHS – cohesive manner focusing on the client's needs, such as training and income.

ii. Cross-Board Work/Teaming up with Other BCCs

Taking an interdisciplinary approach, what do we want to work and who are the Boards that can help with those goals. Neda echoes Brian's sentiments, MC has so many services, that we might not know about, she is a fan of collaborating with other Boards. Rafiah suggests for Boards and commissions to meet at least quarterly.

Action item: Rafiah will get the BCC packet that has all the committees and see which of their priorities align with ours.

1. Mental Health Advisory Committee; ICH; Early Childhood Council; Juvenile Justice; Child Care; Children and Youth

b. Game Plan for County Council Meetings – Neda, Kathryn, Brian

The County Council Inauguration will be on 12/5/22 at 11 am at Strathmore Neda will attend.

The County Executive's Budget meeting on 12/12/22 in Germantown –with the community.
https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=42411

- Board members want T-shirts to wear at events and meetings Rafiah is checking if we are allowed t-shirts without the Montgomery County logo.
- Brian - Meetings with the Counsels and County Executive a total of 13 meetings will be set up, he wants to divide the work, Ideally Neda, Brian and Rafiah should be at the meetings.
- Nazeefa advised that council member Navarro is gone and to remove her from the list.

Action Item – Rafiah will update the folder of the current Council members information.

- i. In the email that Brian will draft he will give them the option for in person or virtual, and each County council member can decide.
Board members will meet with: Elrich- Brian; Katz - Leah; Jawando-Brian; Glass - Neda; Albornoz-Brian; Friedson -Leah; Sayles - Wendy; Balcombe - Neda; Stewart; Mink- Wendy; Fani-Gonzalez - Leah; Luedtke – Neda
- Brian asks to schedule meetings with in the first 6 weeks of the year, before the Budget by mid-March. Kathryn reminds meetings with Elrich schedule as soon as possible.
- Leah asked if we give testimony at this budget meeting, Ellen suggests not to, as that time is for the community and constituents not Boards.
 - ii. Elrich Town Halls: Dec. 7 (Silver Spring), 12 (Germantown), 14 (Bethesda).
- c. Discussion and Approval of Board Priorities for FY 2023 - Neda
- Increased staffing for Victim Assistance, Compensation and Bridge housing the board is still supporting these. Larry said to put a heavy emphasis on the Bridge housing and for the Victim's compensation amount to be raised.
- d. Update on CJCC Meeting – Kathryn reports that many of the Boards, Commissions, and Boards, were in noncompliance, a complaint was filed, she has the opinion from the complaint, we are not mentioned in this complaint. As member of the CJCC, she had to sign this decision. The last CJCC meeting she attended was on 9/29/22. The agenda talked about all the trainings going on in schools due to shootings. There is a website created with all these updates, another was suicide help for kids, Rachel Arching – 988 hot line – she gave a good presentation.
Action Item: Kathryn will send the site for the school shooting drills.
The 11/16/22 meeting focused on the youth criminal justice reform, there are substantial changes for juvenal criminal justice. Heather would do a training to the Board. Brian asked if she could present at the next meeting.
Action Item -Heather will present on restorative justice at the January Board meeting.

V. Legislative Subcommittee Update– Kathryn, Neda, Rafiah Prince

Brian shared on the screen The Maryland General Assembly 2023 Session Legislation to Consider Supporting by VSAB.

Katryn reached out to Feinstein, she put together a list of their priorities that failed or were supported and are likely to be introduced at the legislative session. Last year they voted to approve the 15 items – now there are 18. If you are interested, do some researc and learn more about it.

The Board will support: Repeal of Spousal Defence, Body Cameras Victim Privacy and Child Sex Abuse/Person in position of Authority which are consistent with our Board's mission.

Brian is asking to look into this, we supported the Child sex abuse bill – HB0959.

- a. Discussion and Approval of Bills to support for 2023 Legislative Session – Kathryn
Kathryn asked for at least 5 volunteers to help with the letters, supporting the Bills – we should write the letters by the end of December 2022 so that we are ready to go, since we have to show to Lesly Frey, for approval and upload for the hearing. Kathryn is asking Larry to edit the letters. Then they will go to Rafiah – pipeline should be Rafiah, Brian, Neda and Kathryn to get those letters turned in on time.

- b. Letters of Support and Division of Labor – Kathryn, Neda
Wendy, Neda, Leah, Juanita R and Brian will write the letters. Neda asked about the child abuse bills – Kathryn said there are 5 bills on child abuse bills. Rafiah reminds that we should stick to the child sex abuse ones since the child abuse letters would have a lot of supporters.
Action Item – Kathryn will send the draft and the templates of the letters and then once is cleaned it up, she will send again – Leah and Larry motioned to approve the bills to support.
- c. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah, they have been posting but is asking if we can request permission for an instagram page – since it was a more popular mode of communication – Rafiah will ask for permission.
- d. Upcoming Awareness month/days and other events – Legislative season, the Montgomery County Commission on Women will have the legislative briefing in Jan -
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/wlb.html>
JACADA is doing a training with Veterans on interpersonal violence. Leah asks to tell us what is going on, please take pictures of meetings, events and send.
- e. Calendar Updates – Board Social Event, mark your calendars for March 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm for Drinks/Appetizers keep an eye out more details to follow.

Adjournment 8:32 PM

Next Meeting:

January 26, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM