

Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) Minutes
Thursday July 26, 2018

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Pooja Deb, Richard Mackenzie, April Marrone, Sally Reid, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson, Sorell Schwartz and Alana Ward.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Rebecca Marcolini, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Michael Subin, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Sorell: Opiate Overdose and Substance Abuse Committee meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The June 26, 2018, minutes were approved, with minor edits.

III. County Council Executive Summary Discussion – Robyn, April and Felix

- The Boards Committees Administration Transition Document was distributed, it's due in September to present to the new County Executive in October.

Action item: Robin will draft the document based on the Board's discussion and send it to the Board prior to the next Board meeting in September.

- To speak to the candidates, you would as a citizen that is part of the board but not representing the board, unless the board gets approval from the County. Once the candidates are elected, we can contact them as part of the VSAB Board.
- The VSAB Board goal is to attend seven meetings concentrating on Health and Human Services, ensuring that they meet with the Council Members between now and January to advocate for priorities.

Action Item: Maria will send the list of the other 19 Boards Committees and Commission Boards under HHS umbrella.

IV. Annual Report - April

- The draft of the Annual Report was distributed and approved with minor edits.

Action Item: The final draft will be distributed at the next meeting.

V. Fleet Street Update - Sorell

- Replacement properties for families transitioning out of the Betty Ann Kranhnke shelter are still needed, due to the properties being vacated due to lead.

Action Item: Sorell and Richard will meet Charles Short, Special Assistant to the County Executive.

VI. Opiate Overdose and Substance Abuse Committee meeting - Sorell

- The international Overdose Awareness Day will be held on Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 7:00 PM, at the Justice Plaza, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The

event will feature substance abuse prevention and treatment. The county wants to train as many people as possible to administer Narcan. Anyone interested in getting trained let him Sorell know.

- Information on the event was distributed.

VII. Facebook page – Reem, Pooja and Rafiah

- A VSAB Facebook page, has been created with a goal of 500 likes by January 2019.
- They will work to post articles, events, photos of events that the Board participates in. They are working on the graphics banner.
- Reem asked the Board to please let her, and Pooja know of events beforehand so that it could be posted ahead of time and after the event.
- Ideas, please share with the face book team.

VIII. Discussion of VSAB Committee Realignment – Robin Stimson

- The Board discussed the subcommittees, some have too many members and others not enough.
- The Board discussed creating a committee that works as a liaison to meet with other committees that align with VSAB.
- The Legislative committee might need to be subdivided to be more useful.
- Ron suggests when the legislation is introduced to assign a person to a bill, to help keep on top of the bills, calling every two weeks. It's important for the board to know what bills are out there.

Action item: Next meeting we will touch base with Anita to get the latest version of the victim services directory. The Board will come up with a plan to finish the directory, Anita and Rebecca will finalize it.

Action item: Maria will email the Board the current subcommittees roster document.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- No other announcements/ Comments/New Business.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: September 27, 2018

7-9 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 27, 2018

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Pooja Deb, Richard Mackenzie, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Robin Stimson, Sorell Schwartz, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Rebecca Marcolini, Reem Sharaf, Michael Subin, Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Rafiah thanked everyone who participated in the interviews for Board vacancies, four positions were filled.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The July 27, 2018, minutes are approved.

III. County Council Executive Summary Transition Document Discussion/Vote Robin

- A unified statement to show why we have so many committees and the added value that VSAB adds to the County.
- VSAB is the board with a liaison to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC).
- Steven suggests the Board prepare a digital introduction of who we are and add a link to our Priorities and Facebook page.

Action Item: Maria will send the Health and Human Services organizational chart and the bios of the newly elected County Council Members to the Board by the December 6, 2018, meeting.

Action item: Jennifer will prepare a draft that outlines what the Board does throughout the year, who we are, our priorities, our strategic plan, emphasizing our victim advocacy to be distributed at the December 6, 2018, board meeting.

IV. Fleet Street Update/meeting - Sorrell

- Sorell trying to set up a meeting Chuck Short.

V. Opiate Overdose and Substance Abuse Committee meeting Sorell

- The Narcan training on 10/9/18 will be at 8818 Georgia Ave. Silver Spring from 1 -3 pm. Please email overdoseresponseprogram@montgomerycountymd.gov to attend.
- There is an effort to train everybody who wants to administer Narcan, you can even get training online. It allows you to purchase Narcan at CVS.

VI. Facebook - Pooja

- The VSAB page has 19 likes and only a few posts. They are working to put out regular information.

- Rafiah posted about the National Walk Out that took place on Monday September 24, 2018.
- Richard will take photos of events and send them, so they could be posted on Facebook page.

Action Item: Please send articles of interest to Pooja and Reem.

VII. Victim Services Directories - Anita

- They created a document that has links to the different agencies according to categories, health care, legal advocacy, etc.
- **Action Item:** Kathryn, Cinder and Anita will add the contacts to the directory for the next Board meeting.

VIII. Discussion of VSAB Sub-Committees Realignment – Robin

- The bylaws states needed committees are legislative, membership, recruitment, fundraising, board development – (organizational and informational), public affairs and the executive committee.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Jennifer met a sexual assault victim who could not get a forensic exam at Holy Cross hospital and wanted to remind the board of this ongoing issue.
- VSAB board has testified on this issue. SART has been talking about this issue.

Action Item: Richard will speak to Jordan Satinsky and reach out to Councilman Leventhal's office.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: October 25, 2018

7-9 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 25, 2018

Attendance: Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, Richard Mackenzie, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson, Michael Subin, Jennifer Todd, Alana Ward and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Ellen Alexander, Teresa Bennett, Pooja Deb, Rebecca Marcolini, Sorell Schwartz.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Mike reported that transition document is pending direction from the new County Executive.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The September 27, 2018, minutes were approved.

III. Introduction of New and Current Board Members

- Leah is a child family therapist, likes making smores, enjoys the outdoors. She has worked with victims of trauma wants to advocate for them.
- Kecia has a background in social work and administration, she currently a contractor for the Board of Elections. Graduated with MPA, she wants to advocate for victims, and she is grateful and thankful to be part of the Board.
- Liz is a youth and family therapist for Family Services Inc. She sees a lot of victims and survivors and wants to do more with advocacy. She has worked with the DC Rape Crisis Center. She enjoys hiking.

**IV. County Council Executive Update – Board Committees and Commissions
“Breakfast” Meeting**

- April and Robin reported that they testified first. Uma requested a draft a proposition to what we do and what is important. We reported 4 priorities which are published on the county website.
Rice requested more information on the priorities for the Abuser Intervention Program.
Steven said that the Board is planning to work with the commission on homelessness. He will help write an MOU.
Action item: Rafiah will send Marja’s contact information to Robin and April.
Action item: Steven will write an MOU to help with working with other boards.

V. Countywide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Testing – Richard Mackenzie

- Laura from MCASA is looking into the issue of the Forensic testing of rape victims and hospitals that provide the testing. Baltimore is a hospital that is testing and

developing a mobile testing unit which is based in a hospital and can be sent to different locations.

- Richard will look into the Baltimore system and see what we can learn from it. The mobile unit was created due to one of the hospitals closing the sexual assault unit. DC also has a mobile unit. Some of the concerns are the billing, liability and permission.

Action item: Rafiah will set up a possible visit to the hospital for a SANE presentation.

Action item: Leah will let the Board know if other states have mobile units.

VI. Updates on Directory

- Anita reported that the directory has been uploaded to drop box. The completed links need to be uploaded.

Action item: Maria will divide and send the service providers pages to Kathryn, Robin, Cinder, Leah, April and Liz to call and confirm the service providers information.

VII. Charter By-laws for Board Committees and Subcommittees

- Rafiah distributed the charter bylaws to the Board. They discussed ideas where and how the Board can create sub committees and work on a strategic plan.

VIII. Facebook page

- Videos from the SART event to post on Facebook.
- The Safe Passage tour photos will be posted to Facebook.
- The County Council testimony will be posted to Facebook.

Action item: Richard, Reem and Pooja will meet with Rafiah to discuss the posting and other Facebook tasks. Leah, and Liz have volunteered to help with Face book as well.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business (5)

- There is no meeting in November.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: December 6, 2018

7-9 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
December 6, 2018

Attendance: Ellen Alexander, Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, Richard Mackenzie, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Michael Subin, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Members Absent: Teresa Bennett, Pooja Deb, Robin Stimson and Alana Ward.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The October 25, 2018, Minutes were approved with a minor correction.

III. Inclement weather reminder

- Rafiah reviewed the BCC inclement weather policy:
 - If Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) open late, BCC morning meetings are cancelled.
 - If MCPS closes early, or if afternoon or evening activities are cancelled, BCC afternoon and evening meetings are cancelled.
 - If MCPS is closed all day, all BCC meetings for that day and evening will be cancelled.

IV. Action Items review

- April is on task and will present today – presentation was handed out to the Board.
- Steven still needs to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to meet with Soni Nili, regarding the Vi-Spdat assessment used for housing domestic violence victims and their families, they only get 1 point and the others such a mental health, drug get more points to use towards qualifying them for housing.
- Leah reports that the shortage of forensic exams is a problem throughout the country. They have the rape kits and forensic equipment. The detectives are not requesting them, and the victims do not know to ask for them. There are not sufficiently trained SAFE nurses and funding is also a barrier.
- In Kentucky the central police unit provide trainings and kits to hospitals and law enforcements.
- In New York there is a public health law that they must maintain forensic information. People have easy access to the information through their Health and Human Services website.

- Country wide only 10% have this available. Because of the shortage of trained people, hospitals are trying to create incentives in their nursing programs to become forensic nurses.
- On January 3rd 2019, at 6:00 pm the Board will have a tour of the SAFE unit at Shady Grove Hospital.

Action Item: Rafiah will set up a meeting with Sony Neele and Stephen for next week.

Action Items: Maria will send an email to the Board with the information and RSVP request for the tour.

V. Strategic Plan

- Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich Public Listening Sessions.
 - Kingsview Middle School Germantown attended by Liz on November 17, 2018.
 - East County Community Center attended by Sally on November 27, 2018.
 - Olney Elementary School attended by Robin on November 29, 2018.
- Kathryn said we should be more strategic, but educate the Board, each Board member will take two members to the meetings in order to get educated. Depending on each meeting we need an additional fact sheet easy to read (dependent on the priority). A greater need to divide up the responsibilities.
- Sally attended the Council meeting and reports that the County Executive is not planning to cut the BCC, they encouraged BCCs to send your priorities through their website.

VI. Abused Persons Program Offender Group update

- April met with Marja Booker of APP and J&E contract monitor, she stated the need for more intake therapists, funding for more offender groups and to provide individual therapy and psychiatry for participants with mental health issues.

VII. New Executive/ Council members

- Rafiah distributed information about new council members and County Executive.

Action Item: Rafiah will send an electronic version.

VIII. Fleet Street Properties update

- Sorell has been out of commission, but will meet with Raymond and Chuck Short, he will follow up. Sorell wants the report about the lead and the reasons the Department of General Services (DGS) said the occupants had to leave.

Action Item: Richard and Sorell will follow up.

IX. Updates on Directory Anita, Cinder and Katherine

- Making progress, once everything gets updated, they will work on the hyperlinks. They are setting the format for information, in order to be consistent.

Action Item: Liz will send out a format sample, so that all people use the same format.

X. Facebook page Pooja and Richard

- Pooja and Richard have started uploading pictures, they were having issues logging in as administrators. Thanks to Leah and Liz for the likes and traffic has raised by 400 percent. Liz said that we can post educational stories to our Facebook page.

XI. Board Subcommittees

- Sally passed around Subcommittee's description duties. Leah asked if we have to use the same wording that is on the document. We can make the committees fit the needs of the community, such as the fundraising of funds for the compensation fund.
- Sally said to hold on the changes until the new County Executive settles in.

She also asked if the Board liked the action instruction so that people know what they have volunteered for. First, we need to formulate the ad hoc and subcommittees.

- Action items list is to be done by subcommittee. The list would be sent to the subcommittee.

Action item: Rafiah will send the new board members information on the housing priority.

XII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Nadja will be assisting the Board meetings in January through March while Rafiah is on leave.
- New members please complete the Parliamentary Procedure Training Web Page Use this Link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/training/parliamentary-procedures.html>

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 PM

Next Meeting Thursday January 24, 2019

7:00 – 9:00 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

January 24, 2019

Attendance: Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Leah Schwartz, Robin Stimson, Michael Subin, Jennifer Todd and Steven Whitehorn.

Attendance Via Conference call: Ellen Alexander and Alana Ward.

Members Absent: Teresa Bennett, Pooja Deb, Richard Mackenzie, Anita Pinto, Sally Reid, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to Agenda

- VSAB Annual Report.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The December 6, 2018, minutes were approved.

III. Shady Grove Hospital Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Visit and Board Priorities

- Jessica Volz gave a tour of the equipment and facility where the SAFE exams are conducted.
- There is a need for rape exams to be available at more than one hospital.
- Robin stated that at Holy Cross Hospital which refuses the SAFE nurses due to religious reasons. Holy Cross Hospital used to do rape kits and could even give the morning after pill but due to a liability issue of nurses and doctors not having a license to provide medication, they will not allow it.
- The SAFE nurses are allowed at the Walter Reed hospital.
- Steven asked if we could get the Attorney General study, Nadja said they might have it at the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA).
- Leah asked if we could invite someone from MCASA to present at our meeting.
- Nadja says the SANE unit has taken more than rape victims. Billing is an issue due to all the different services that are not covered for nonsexual assault victims.
- Ellen asked about the (VHMN) funds for forensic CICB funds.

Action item: Maria will send the priorities document to April to update the priorities.

Action item: Ellen will look into the VHMN funds.

IV. Discuss interest in human trafficking task force

- Robin says she wants to attend.
- The task force meetings are held at 101 Monroe Street Auditorium once a month on the first Wednesdays 12:00 to 1:30 pm. The subcommittee meetings every other month at the Rockville Library at 11:00 am.

- It is suspected that in Montgomery County the victims are from labor servitude, there are very little numbers on human sex trafficking victims. Nadja has been trying to get CASA de Maryland to attend the meetings.
- Mike says, it happens more where there are casinos closer to I-95, Baltimore or near sports venues, more of sexual trafficking victims. Those type of venues are not in Montgomery County.
- Victims of trafficking get arrested as prostitutes; it takes a very special training to know they are victims.
- BAK contract allows victims of trafficking to stay at the BAK shelter, for 60 days. They ended up recruiting domestic violence victims into prostitution. They have been groomed and they will stay loyal to their pimps. It did not work out well.

V. Fleet Street Update - April

- April will take on this task.
- Besides the lead, the zoning issues are too restrictive. Fleet Street is not solving our needs.
- The board agreed to look at other solutions instead of trying to improve Fleet Street.

VI. One pager for Board priorities - Robin Stimson

- The Board Priorities need to be updated for the meetings with the County Executive and the Council.
- **Action Item:** April will update the one-page priorities document.

VII. Facebook Page

- Liz and Leah want to take on the Facebook page as its not currently moving forward. They want to post at least every two weeks and be responsible for posting.

Action item: Robin will contact Reem to get access to the Board Facebook page.

VIII. Dropbox permissions - Cinder

The administrative permission to access the Dropbox account is an issue.

- All official documents need to have a copy in the shared county network drive.
- Rebecca said that we should look into outlook one drive 365. The creator of the document gives permission.

Action item: Ellen will look into the one note program with the County.

IX. Victim Services Directory April, Kathryn, Leah and Cinder

- Kathryn said organizations are not calling back. They should high light the information of organizations that are not confirmed.
- Ellen offered an intern to help with the project.
- It is also needed to test the hyperlinks and highlight what is not working.
- Marcolini says that organizations that are linked to other organizations are placed in the correct categories. The hyper link should be connected to each category that the organization is linked to. Primary should be what you want to find in the directory secondary is nice but not necessary. Rebecca suggests just placing the website instead of the hyper link.

- Ellen would like to refer victims to programs out there in the community that are more specialized.
- Robin said that this is a job that has been lingering for two years and they want to finish this job.

Action item: April will consult with Anita on how they want to proceed on this. They need to make

sure, that this will not be something that can't be maintained.

Action item: Leah and Robin will send their edits to Anita.

Action item: Board members will highlight the information of organizations that are not confirmed.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Women's Legislative Briefing Sunday, January 27, 2019
- Nadja handed out the 2019 legislative priorities from MCASA.

Meeting adjourned 9:03 pm.

Next Meeting: February 28, 2019

7-9 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 28, 2019

Attendance: Liz Briganty Vidal, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Robin Stimson and Michael Subin.

Members Absent: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Pooja Deb, Kecia Lopes, Richard Mackenzie, Jennifer Todd, Leah Schwartz, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Alana Ward and Steven Whitehorn.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander and Teresa Bennett.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to the Agenda

- Sharing documents in a shared drive, we have One drive, but it is for in County log ins only.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The January 24, 2019, minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

III. Meeting with Chuck Short Special Assistant to Marc Elrich – April Marrone

- April met with Chuck Short and shared the VSAB annual report with him and the new Special Assistant to the County Executive, BB Otero.
- April discussed the priorities and the Fleet Street property. Mr. Short said he would look into it. He suggested that actual budget amounts would help make the priorities clearer and to meet with Gabe Albornoz, the HHS Committee Chair. April has scheduled a meeting with Sidney Katz, next year's Council President.

Action item: April and Robin will draft a letter for Marc Elrich, County Executive and Council President Nancy Navarro and send them the annual report.

IV. Board and Sub Committee Discussion & Expectations (40) – Robin Stimson and April Marrone

- The budget priorities are housing, offenders' program and restoration of victim assistants.
- Sally will create a list of subcommittees and descriptions. Robin will draft subcommittee expectations.
- The Board agreed to have the following subcommittees:
 1. Legislative: Robin will Chair, Kathryn and Liz will support.
 2. Executive/Budget April will Chair, Kathryn and Robin will support.
 3. Ad hoc: Public Affairs Facebook/ Events, Crime victim awareness month. Sally will Chair, Liz, Reem will support.
 4. Ad hoc: Resource Directory committee Anita will Chair; April will support and Nadja will review.

Action item: Co-chairs will invite members to join the sub committees. The subcommittees will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Ex-officio members can either join or provide expertise/guidance to any sub-committee.

V. Attendance and Phone Conferencing – Nadja Cabello

- Due to the number of absences, she suggested moving the meetings to an earlier time.
- Nadja reported that the conference calls can only be done on occasion and Board members should only vote in person or if allowed members should stay during the whole length of the meeting during the call.

Action item: Nadja will email members to inquire about the possibility of changing the meeting time.

VI. Directory update – Anita Pinto

- She said Ellen's offer of an intern isn't needed.
- Kathryn suggested updating the directory quarterly/ annually. Rebecca said that the website should be more current. It will be accessible on Facebook and the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program websites.

VII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- None.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: March 28, 2019

7-9 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2019

Attendance: Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, Richard Mackenzie, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Sorell Schwartz, Alana Ward and Steven Whitehorn.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Annabelle Gerendesy (for Ellen Alexander), Rebecca Marcolini and Michael Subin.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Teresa Bennett.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to Agenda

1. Elder Abuse, Rebecca

- Adult Protective Services show a 20% increase in elder abuse in Montgomery County. Funding is needed for more investigators to investigate financial exploitation of the elderly.
- HB1076 allows professionals to testify on behalf of victims of elder abuse, due to deterioration of mental capacity.
- Nadja says that there are currently two separate Boards that deal with elder abuse.
- The Board should liaison with the Public Guardianship Board and the Aging and Disability Board.

2. Annual Report, April

- April wants to do the VSAB annual report annually, so she wants the Board member's bio for the annual report.
- **Action item:** April will send a template to add member Bios and photos to add to the annual report.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January 24, 2019, and February 28, 2019, minutes were approved.

III. Possible VSAB Meeting Time Change Discussion

- Due to different reasons, the Board approved meetings to begin at 6:30 pm, starting on April 25, 2019.

IV. Board Expectation and Sub Committees Discussion – Robin and April

- The chair of the subcommittees will be responsible for meetings reporting to the board. If the chair can't attend, they should designate someone in the subcommittee to chair.

Action item: Maria will send the updated subcommittee descriptions and members.

V. Executive Sub Committee updates, April

- April sent letters outlining VSAB's 3 priorities to County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President, Nancy Navarro, Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Raymond Crowel and Acting HHS Director, Victoria Buckland. The priorities: 1) Resolve housing issues for victims of domestic violence. 2) Increase funding for domestic violence offender groups. 3) Restoration of trauma services staff to previous levels of service.

Action item: April and Robin will meet in April with Sidney Katz, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, will meet with Linda McMillan who is a Council staff member, and with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz.

Action item: April will present the budget testimony to the County Council on April 8, 2019.

- April met with Chuck Short regarding the Fleet Street properties. Unfortunately, there is still nothing that can be done. Chuck Short will look further into this issue.

VI. Legislative Sub Committee updates, Robin

- No updates.
- Kathryn would like to meet with legislators on behalf of the board. Nadja suggested that Legislator Ms. Kathleen Dumais could present to the Board. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) devotes an entire meeting on the legislative sessions. They are held every other month on the 4th Wednesday at 7:30 am; next meeting is on May 20, 2019. The meeting is held at the lobby of the Executive Office Building.

Action item: Kathryn will reach out to Ms. Dumais to come speak to the Board.

- **Action item:** Robin will ask Russell Butler to present to the Board on how to prepare for the next legislative session.

VII. Directory Sub Committee updates, Anita

- Anita has removed information on hours, eligibility and payments. April has added the hyperlinks.
- They will share information through a Gmail account that was created to share the information, then the final version will be sent by email to support staff.
- Nadja wanted to know who was vetting the individual providers and the Board decided that due to liability, they will be removed from the directory.

Action item: April will add hyperlinks and remove the individual providers.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Sub Committee updates, Sally

- No updates.

IX. Homeless Coalition Meeting, Robin

- Robin attended the Homeless Coalition meeting. She reports that all the coalitions in the County aimed to have zero homelessness.
- Organizers will be coming up with a summary and plans of action.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: April 25, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 25, 2019

Attendance: Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Sorell Schwartz and Steven Whitehorn.

Members via Conference call: Alana Ward.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Teresa Bennett, Rebecca Marcolini and Michael Subin.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Volunteers needed to interview candidates.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The March 28, 2019, minutes were approved.

III. Executive Sub-Committee Update April Marrone, Robin Stimson and Kathryn Pontzer.

Part 1

- Robin and Kathryn met with Linda McMillen, Senior Legislative Analyst on April 2, 2019 to discuss the Board's three priorities and Annual Report.
- Ms. McMillen gave a contact to whom the board can inquire about transitional County housing. She reported that the County is focusing more on permanent housing than transitional housing.
- Nadja explained that many domestic violence victims do not qualify for permanent housing because they don't have a job or good credit. Transitional housing is subsidized by the County and domestic violence victims can get job training and work on fixing their credit.
- Many times, family members have Section 8 and are not allowed to have family members stay with them.
- Ms. McMillen wanted to know, if the VA positions were frozen or cut.
- Nadja clarified that these positions were cut.

Part 2

- Robin attended the Inter Agency Coalition meeting, they talked about housing, they got an email that ICH is moving forward with some of the Board's priority for funding housing for domestic violence victims. They submitted a proposal with our updated priorities, and we are waiting for approval.

- On April 1, 2019 April met with Council Member Sidney Katz and on April 4, 2019 April met with Council Member Gabe Albornoz and he offered to come to speak to our board meeting in May to discuss housing issues.

Part 3

- On April 8th Kathryn and April testified at the budget hearings.
- At the hearings, the supervised visitation center is asking for more funds to increase their hours of business from 28 to 38 hours.

Part 4

- The County Council asked to follow up questions about the Board priorities and Nadja answered questions for Dr. Crowel, Chief of BHCS.

IV. Legislative Sub-Committee Update Robin Stimson

- Robin arranged for the Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center, Director, Russell Butler to present to the Board in June. The Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center is advocating for the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund to increase the award amount.
- Ellen said Richard Hoffman is the attorney for Maryland Research, who is suing. It could take up to 2 years to have a hearing with CICB.
- CICB states they are not the last payer, and they are penalizing victims for receiving VASAP compensation fund.
- CICB also does not want to compensate any victims that could be compensated by Worker's Compensation.
- Robin reported Senate Bill 767 establishes uniform testing criteria for sexual assault evidence kits.
- Senate Bill 657 is to establish a pilot program to provide Prophylaxis and full course of treatment to victims of sexual assault.
- Senate Bill 734 would enable State prosecutors to hold accountable those who profit off forced labor.

V. Directory Sub-Committee Update April Marrone

- April presented the draft of the Directory to the Board members.
- Nadja said we have a VASAP email that gets checked by a therapist.

Action item: Cinder will send a final draft when done and will send it to April and Anita for their approval.

VI. Social Media/Public Affairs Sub-Committee Updates Sally Reid

- Liz suggests posting clips from the Council testimony and be more open to other postings about crime, as well as posting on how to get support and or to help.
- Rafiah will post the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony photos. It was suggested that the Board should go to those events that VASAP is attending.
- Rafiah suggested attending the Take Back the Night event. Nadja said there are different communities, and the Board can do a Facebook story.
- Liz wants clarification on fundraising, what the guidelines are.

Action item: Rafiah will send the Board the Bylaws.

- Nadja said 10% of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund can be used for public outreach and education. The County gives a match of 2 to 1 in the Crime Victims Compensation fund for donations received.

Action item: Liz will fix the emblem on the Facebook page. The logo needs to mention HHS.

VII. Board Attendance Nadja Cabello

- Nadja has asked all members to arrive on time to the Board meetings. The Board meets only 10 times a year.
- Members need to be committed to attending meetings and subcommittee meetings to participate and vote.

VIII. Annual Report Update April Marrone

- It needs to be corrected by July.
- April needs the format of members bios as: name, date of appointment to the board, reasons for joining the board and head shots of members.

Action item: Bios and head shots are due to April as soon as possible.

IX. Volunteer Recognition Event Nadja Cabello

- The event went very well. Thank you for Board members and April who came to the event.

Adjournment 9 PM

Next Meeting: May 23, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 23, 2019

Attendance: Liz Briganty Vidal, Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Kecia Lopes, Sorell Schwartz and Alana Ward.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Rebecca Marcolini and Michael Subin.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander.

Guests: Drena Reaves-Bey and Richard Shermanski.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello, Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The April 25, 2019, minutes were approved.

III. Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) update – Michael Subin

- Michael distributed a list of House and State Bills.
- The Board does not want to lose our vote in the CJCC meetings that Sorell attends. The Board suggests that Robin could be the official Representative and Sorell could attend.

IV. Legislative Sub-Committee Update Robin Stimson

- They have prepared questions to send to Russell Butler, Director for the Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center who will be a guest speaker for the June 27, 2019 Board meeting.

V. Directory Sub-Committee Update April Marrone

- The directory is completed and needs to be posted on the County website.

Action item: Rafiah and April will ask the Director or acting Director of HHS at the next Boards and Commissions Committee meeting about placing it on the County's website.

VI. Public Affairs/Events Sub-Committee Updates Sally Reid

- Reem has been posting on Facebook and she is attending events, she asks for materials Rafiah can get it prepared for them.

Action item: Rafiah will send Reem the VSAB brochure to post.

- Wear Orange weekend starts June 7 in honor of National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Leah will try to get a table at the Silver Spring Civic Center hosting a Unity Walk.

Action item: Rafiah will bring VASAP/VSAB props to show what we have to use when we do events.

VII. Annual Report Update April Marrone

- Profile photos were taken prior to the Board meeting.
- April asks for Board members to please fill out the following:

Name (including credentials)

Month/year you began serving on the Board

A quote for why you joined the Board

- If you have not taken a profile photo or turned in your Bios, please send them to April Marrone ASAP.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: June 27, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 27, 2019

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Cinder Cooper Barnes, Kecia Lopes, April Marrone, Anita Pinto, Kathryn Pontzer, Sally Reid, Leah Schwartz, Sorell Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Liz Briganty Vidal.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Annabelle Gerendasy for Ellen Alexander and Michael Subin.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Rebecca Marcolini.

Guest Speakers: Russell Butler and Christopher Quasebarth.

Guests: Drena Reaves-Bey and Richard Shermanski.

Support Staff: Nadja Cabello and Maria Carzon.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The May 23, 2019, Minutes are approved with minor edits regarding Sorell's reporting back to the Board from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) Meetings.

III. Presentation – Russell Butler Executive Director of the Crime Victims Resource Center and Christopher Quasebarth.

- Stephanie Roper was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 1982. Her parents created The Stephanie Roper Foundation to provide assistance to victims and the Stephanie Roper committee to help change laws. In 1985 Christopher Quasebarth began advising the advocates and the victims. In 2003, Roberta Roper resigned as Executive Director and Russell Butler took over.
- They are significantly funded by grants; all of their services are free with the exception of appeals and appeal attorneys. They have a list of attorneys that are pro bono.
- They focus on the bills that are related to victims: restitution, compensation focus exclusively on the criminal side.
- Nadja adds that there is no privacy for victims of crime of sexual assault, CICB requests all the papers including photographs and rape kits from the victim. This violates our victim's privacy.
- If you find which committee will get the bill, try to get to them. You want to make sure who ever does this is going to put your bill in a higher priority and he suggests that you draft the bill as narrow as possible in order for it to be passed.
- When he drafts a bill, he thinks of the judges, States Attorney's Office and law enforcement and tries to consider the people involved. A lot of the work needs to be

done before legislative sessions starts when you can catch them. During the session is too late, key is finding the right sponsors.

IV. Facebook Presentation - Social Media/Public Affairs Sub-Committee

- The Facebook/social media/Public Affairs Sub-Committee will present at the July meeting.
- Reem had a question about crowd funding, Nadja stated this is a question for Raymond.

Action item: VSAB Co-chairs will ask when they meet with him.

V. Staff Updates/Community Education Grant Funding

- Nadja announced Dr. Raymond Crowel, the new HHS Director, effective July 1, 2019. Scott Green will be Acting BHCS Chief.
- Nadja applauds the Board, for their County Council outreach. Linda McMillen asked specific questions regarding the budget.
- We lost the Community Education Grant this year. It was awarded to only four Rape Crisis Programs. This funding allowed for the VASAP Community Educator to visit high schools and present on sexual violence to 10th graders. We use to get \$20,000.00 – \$16,000.00 for the Community Educator and \$4,000.00 for PR/ Educational Outreach.

VI. Executive Sub-committee Update (10) – April Marrone & Robin Stimson

- April and Robin presented the Board priorities at the quarterly Boards and Commissions meeting with Victoria Buckland, acting Director of HHS.

VII. Annual Report Update – April Marrone

- The Board has approved the layout of the FY19 Annual report.

VIII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The Board thanked Anita Pinto for her service to the Board and her work on the Annual Report and the Directory.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: July 25, 2019

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM