

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

July 23, 2020

Attendance: Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Neda Bolourian, Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Quintaria Brunson.

Ex-Officio Members absent: Ellen Alexander and Rebecca Marcolini.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures and Discussion - Kathryn Pontzer

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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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 June 2020 meeting

- The June 25, 2020, Minutes were approved.

IV. VSAB Board – Board at Large

- Sub-committee membership – Kathryn Pontzer/Juanita Rogers
- They will have someone to come speak to the Board about the Legislative Session at a future Board meeting.

Action item: Rafiah will send Leslie Frey an email to set it up.

- April recommends keeping the structure of Chair and Co-chair for Executive subcommittees. Juanita will replace April. They need all 5 members participating actively due to lots of going on, such as meetings with Council members and the County Executive.
- The directory committee has served its purpose, it can be removed as a subcommittee.
- Rafiah is working with Beth Gochrach to get this organized so the Board can start interviewing candidates for the Board vacancies. Members will be needed to conduct interviews.
- Robin cannot attend the CJCC meeting in August. Robin will send the CJCC August meeting information for Leah to attend.

V. Annual Report Update - April Marrone

April incorporated the received edits to the Annual report, except for the service provider interviewed by Cinder. VASAP and APP need to be better linked within the bubble chart.

Action Item: Kathryn will add that information.

Action Item: Rafiah will make the APP and VASAP connections.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates - Kathryn Pontzer

- Leah attended the July 9, 2020 Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) meeting; Tina Michaels, from the Montgomery County Detention Center wants to collaborate on helping offenders. Tom Manion, FJC Director wants to collaborate on housing for domestic violence victims and their family. Kathryn recommends we continue with our current priorities; however, investigate and collaborate with other boards and commissions for additional support.

Action Item: Leah will follow up with Tina Michael and Kathryn will follow up with Tom to get more information.

- The board is interested in finding out what is needed to support the program given the current challenges with the pandemic.

Action Item: Rafiah will check with Nadja to set it up a meeting with Ellen and Linda.

- Councilmember, Evan Glass, who is on the Housing Committee, will present at the September Board meeting.

Action Item: Brian will send the ICAH testimony to Mr. Glass.

- Amos spoke with Judge Greenberg about the letter of support from the judges. Judge Greenberg wants to discuss it with Judge Mitchell, to draft his own correspondence to remain as neutral as possible.
- Robin attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) meeting on July 22, 2020. They will begin meeting monthly instead of every other month. They are focusing on police reform and how to hire and retain better officers. They are hiring an independent auditor to look at Montgomery County Police.

VII. Legislative Sub-committee updates – Robin Stimson

- Robin wants to add the social media # hashtag days to the Legislative calendar.

Action item: Robin and Leah will add World Humanitarian Day, August 19, 2020.

- Interested members are needed to prepare for 2021 General Assembly.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- The Take Back the Night event has been rescheduled for October. If you know attend any event, please let the Public Affairs/Events subcommittee know and send a photo of it. This will show that we are represented in different parts of the County.

IX. Update on RFP for APP offender groups – Rafiah Prince

- The contract has yet to be finalized.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Please contact Rafiah to help with setting up a virtual meeting for any of the subcommittees.

Adjournment 8:25 PM

Next Meeting:

September 24, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

September 24, 2020

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Rebecca Marcolini, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, , Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Iraina (Liz) Bringanty-Vidal, Reem Sharaf.

Ex-Officio Members absent: Ellen Alexander.

Guest: Councilmember Evan Glass.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

XI. Additions to Agenda

- No additions

XII. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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XIII. Approval of minutes from July 2020 meeting

- The July 23, 2020, minutes were approved.

XIV. Guest Speaker, Councilmember Evan Glass

- Councilman Evan Glass serves on the Health and Human Services (HHS) subcommittee and the Commission on Homelessness.
- He introduced the LGBTQ bill of rights, it would explicitly ban LGBTQ discrimination in healthcare facilities, nursing homes and personal care facilities, as well as expand current protections to include gender expression and HIV status.
- He also expanding the kids ride free on buses under 18 due to being an equity issue with transportation. Ridership increased 54 % after the program got started.

XV. Introduction of priorities and Boards recommendations -Kathryn

- Kathryn reported that Covid 19 has impacted the victims of domestic violence. There is an increase in domestic violence, robbery and stalking. In the past 3 years one of the big priorities in addition to housing is increasing the staff. The advantages of working with Victim Assistants through Health & Human Services is that they are allowed in District courts to help the victims, were as the Family Justice Center Victim Assistants are not, and not dependent from law enforcement. The Board advocates for the need to have both sets of Victim Assistants. HHS Victim Assistants

not only are present in the court room, but they also process compensation cases and work with domestic violence offenders.

- There is an increase in referrals from Child Welfare Services and the number of homicides has increased. There is a 91% increase in protective orders due to more severe strangulation cases between January and June 2020.
- Councilman Evan Glass stated that due to COVID, the financial situation may have a possible 1 billion shortage, He suggests that personal stories of victims should be shared during presentations to the Council.

XVI. Executive Subcommittee Updates – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- One priority is for the Board to have a meeting to Nadja Cabello, Manager of Trauma Services.
- There will be a public announcement promoting the Betty Ann Khranke Shelter (BAK) and making it a safe place for victims to seek help. There is a grant available for PR to let people know that it is safe to go to the hospital and seek services because there is a lot of escalated cases due to COVID and having more people staying home.
- Victims who stay at the BAK at the end of their stay, maybe unemployed and have nowhere to live. At this point transitional or bridge housing would be useful that has DV specific case management.
- Budget meetings are being set up now. Board members should attend.
Action Item: Rafiah will get the dates and notify Board members so they can attend.
- Kathryn attended the HHS Director's Quarterly Leadership Meeting with Boards Committees and Commissions (BCC) on August 17, 2020. She spoke about the priorities of the Board.
- Judge Mitchell and Judge Greenberg have to responded about the letter of support from County Judges. ACTION ITEM: Neda and Amos will keep trying to reach them.
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meetings are now held monthly. Robin reported that they gave eviction and court updates. Many inmates are doing work release.

XVII. Legislative Subcommittee updates - Kathryn Pontzer

- In preparation for the 2021 General Assembly & Outreach to Legislative Offices Kathryn sent an email to all members. Only a few members responded to take the lead to reach out to one or more Senator and/or Delegate. This must be done within the next two weeks.
Action item: Board members should let Kathryn know which Senator and/or Delegate they can reach out to.
- Juanita presented a PowerPoint presentation to learn and know the timing and reading of the Bills. MCASA should present to the Board speak about their legislative priorities.
Action Item: Rafiah will set up a presentation from MCASA for next month's Board meeting.

XVIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- Leah presented the Upcoming Awareness month calendar. She would like to share victims' stories to post to further engage spread awareness and educate.

Action item: Domestic Violence Awareness month color is purple. Members should send a photo wearing purple to Leah so she can make a montage.

- Rafiah will be attending a meeting with MCPS on Facebook Live on October 13 from 6-7:15 pm.

Action item: Rafiah will send the information to Leah to do a viewing party.

- Robin and Leah will attach the calendar to the monthly agenda.

Action item: Robin and Leah will send it to Maria to save it in the Boards electronic files.

XIX. Update on Board vacancies/interviews – Rafiah Prince

- Board members and Rafiah conducted 6 interviews. Four were recommended to be on the Board. Rafiah thanked Board members for helping with the interviews. After December, there will be another round of interviews.

XX. Update on RFP for APP offender groups – Rafiah Prince

- APP is continuing to receive many referrals for dv offenders. The contract is still in negotiation.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

October 22, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

October 22, 2020

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Ronald Cohen, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, April Marrone, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Robin Stimson, Reem Sharaf.

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson.

Ex-Officio Members: Dolores Briceno, Annabelle Gerendasy, Rebecca Marcolini.

Guest: Steven Whitehorn.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Kathryn Pontzer

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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Public bodies might wish to consider including any ground rules in the meeting notice.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 2020 meeting

- The September 24, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Welcoming the new State's Attorney representative

- Rebecca introduced her replacement Dolores Briceno to the Board.

V. Guest Speaker: Steven Whitehorn, Public Health Advisor, Division of Behavioral Indian Health Services:

- Powerpoint presentation was shared: *Domestic Violence: Pathways of Healing During the COVID Pandemic.*

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates- Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- They were invited to the County Council Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee Work Session on Policy Issues to testify on November 18, 2020. The one-page testimony will focus on the impact of the pandemic, the lack of transitional and permanent housing for domestic violence victims.
- For numbers and stories, Rafiah suggested they read the Bethesda Beat.
- Councilman Evan Glass will provide a proclamation to the Board, to acknowledge the work the Board does on behalf of victims, on October 27, 2020, at 9:30 am.

- The Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CJCC) October meeting focused on the voting boxes being tampered with, steps to ensure safe elections and how law enforcement will assist for protests or celebrations. There are juvenile justice prevention efforts for trouble individuals, to try to break the school to prison pipelines.
Action Item: Board members will send Kathryn data, antidotes, or resources for the testimony.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- They are preparing for the 2021 General Assembly & Outreach to Legislative Offices. Kathryn reached out to 3 offices. Senator Michael Lee is supporting Bill 230, it will make it possible for married people to file claims against their legal spouse at the time of the alleged rape or sexual offense. The board will look into whether they will support Senator Smith’s initiative on police accountability.
- MCASA will make a presentation to the Board at the next meeting on December 3, 2020.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- Thank you to Ron and Jessica for sending photos wearing the color purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- December 2nd is Giving Tuesday; Leah wants to raise money for VASAP’s Crime Victim’s Compensation fund through Facebook.
- They are excited to have Amos join their subcommittee.
- The MCFJC Foundation is having a 11K walk to help end domestic violence. The cost is \$30. <https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/MD/YourTown/VirtualFJC11k>. Please share the link on your Facebook page.
- **Action Item:** Please send events, resources, or calls to actions to the subcommittee so they can update the calendar.

IX. Annual Report Update – Juanita Rogers

- Once Rafiah update the table, it will be complete.
- Juanita wants to start preparing for the next Annual report which will be next July 2021, it will not include the survey.

Action Item: Rafiah will update the Annual Report.

Action Item: Rafiah will contact Mary Anderson to upload the Service directory.

X. Update on New Members – Rafiah Prince

- Four new members were appointed this week. They are expected to attend the next meeting.
- There are still three vacancies.
- Those members who want to extend their appointments must do so before December.

Action Item: Rafiah will give instructions for extending appointments to members whose terms are ending.

XI. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Thank you to Ron and Rebecca for their service to the Board and for their commitment to working with victims of crime.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

December 3, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

December 3, 2020

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, April Marrone, Jill Pargamont, Kathryn Pontzer, Drena Reaves-Bey, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, David Young.

Members Absent: Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Dolores Briceno and Annabelle Gerendasy.

Guest: Lisae Jordan Esq.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon and Rafiah Prince.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

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III. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2020, meeting

- The October 22, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Guest Speaker Lisae Jordan: Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)

- The marriage bill will be supported by the Board again.
- The police do not want the police reform bill to pass, they would rather have better policies.
- To support the bills, the Board should target key committees and appropriations committees.

V. Welcoming the new VSAB members/ Introductions:

- The Board welcomed new members Larry Center, Jill Pargamont, Drena Reaves-Bey and David Young.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates- Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Kathryn testified on November 19, 2020 at the County Council HHS Committee Work Session on Policy Issues. Councilmember Gabe Albornoz suggested that the

Board collaborate with the police around the new 911 mobile app which victims can used to text for help. Kathryn will follow up with Vivian Yao.

- Councilmember Evan Glass Proclamation – The Board sent a thank you letter to Mr. Glass. He would like to attend a Board meeting.
- The board will be making it advocacy rounds with council members and HHS's department heads.

ACTION ITEM: Kathryn will set up a meeting with Raymond Crowel and Rolando Santiago. She will also send her testimony to the Board.

- The Executive subcommittee members will target an office to reach out to.

ACTION ITEM: Kathryn will send the updated list of council members to target tomorrow.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- Members continue to reach out in preparation for 2021 General Assembly & Outreach to Legislative Offices.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- They will share some COVID resources from VASAP, MCASA and the County. Please share any resources with the public affairs team so they can share on Facebook.
- January 31 is the virtual Women's Legislative Briefing. The cost is \$20.00 for registration by Jan 28. Afterwards, it will be \$30.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-128800049415>

- They would like to feature Board members on FACEBOOK, answering 8 questions.
ACTION ITEM: Leah will send the questions to the Board.
ACTION ITEM: Please send pictures of yourself wearing blue by Jan 5th.
- A section to the agenda for Board members to share to what is going on at work will be added.
ACTION ITEM: Please send events, resources, or calls to actions to the Public Affairs subcommittee so they can update the calendar.

IX. Annual Report Update/Planning for upcoming report – Rafiah/Chairs

- Rafiah is working on the Annual report, and it will be completed next week.
- The goal is to have a draft for next year to be approved by the July 2021.

ACTION ITEM: New Board members please send your head shots in.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Thanking April for her 4 years of service. Her leadership has really helped the Board achieve their goals in the last years.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

January 28, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

January 28, 2021

Attendance: Ellen Alexander, Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Jill Pargamont, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Reem Sharaf, Leah Schwartz, Robin Stimson, David Young.

Members Absent: Drena Reaves-Bey.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno.

Support Staff: Maria Carzon, Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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III. Approval of Minutes

- The December 3, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member Insights & Experiences with Victim Services

- Robin is a manager for Mother Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). They work with families who have been affected by an impaired driver.
- Robin spoke about legislation to strengthen Noah's Law to allow an Ignition interlock device for PBJ cases and to increase the penalty from 10 years maximum in jail.
- Mr. Center was a volunteer who worked with sexual assault and domestic violence victims. He has felt the power of their stories through workshops, conferences, and input from victims. He feels the County provides excellent services to victims and is optimistic about the future. But there is still a lot to accomplish in the pandemic.

V. Review of Subcommittees and Signing up – Rafiah Prince

- The subcommittees have been updated as follows: Legislative, Executive, Public Affairs, and the Annual Report Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: All new Board members will choose which subcommittee they would like to join at the next meeting.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers and Kathryn Pontzer

- Neda met with Councilmember Gabe Alborno. He said there will be a budget shortfall due to COVID-19 expenses.
- A meeting with Council member Will Jawando is scheduled for February 16.
- The Board will review Bill 4-21, which would create restrictions on ghost guns, which are untraceable by law enforcement.
- Brian met with Council members Sidney Katz and Craig Rice.
- Robin attended the Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CJCC) meeting in January. The main concern was getting covid vaccines available for court personnel.
- Judge Ferrati presented on possible legislation for PG County to review prison sentences for juvenile offenders and to try using more prevention methods.
- Police reform task force reports will be released to the public next week.

ACTION ITEM: Rafiah will notify the County if the Board wants to support the legislation Bill 4-21.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- The Board would like to send a letter of support to all members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee to support SB43/HB411 which prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in sexual acts with those involved in an investigation.
- **ACTION ITEM: Kathryn will draft a letter.**
- The letter of support for SB250/HB147 which would repeal the spousal defense to sexual assault has been sent to members of the Senate and House committees. The Board would like to use the letter to send to each member of the Montgomery County Delegation and to President of the Senate, Bill Ferguson.
- The Board is watching SB413/HB514 to increase the required distribution from \$2 million to \$8 million to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Funding and HB31 to increase revenue from the courts to be earmarked for rental assistance programs.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates

- COVID resources and events will be posted on Facebook.
- Nadja Cabello, Director of Trauma Services will receive the Visionary Award from MCASA.

IX. Annual Report Approval/Planning for Upcoming Report

- The Annual Report is now available on the VASAP website.
- The goal is to have the next report ready by July.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Board members should think of creative ideas, photos, graphics to make the report appealing.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The Board is still trying to meet with the Raymond Crowel, Amanda Harris, and Rolando Santiago.
- Dorne Hill is the new HHS representative for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC).

Next Meeting:

February 25, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

February 25, 2021

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Jill Pargamont, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson and David Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Dolores Briceno and Annabelle Gerendasy.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander.

Guest: Rolando Santiago.

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

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III. Approval of Minutes

- The December 3, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Welcome Rolando Santiago, Chief, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services- Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Dr. Santiago, DHHS Director, spoke about the priorities for crime victims in the County, including the need for more transitional housing for domestic violence victims.
- An overview of Trauma Services was provided.
- There has been an increase in crime victims.
- Budget cuts are coming and the Board is only asking to maintain the resources for Trauma Services or add staff to meet the demand for services created by the pandemic.

ACTION ITEM: The Board is committed in communicating information and resources for those who experience domestic violence.

V. Board Member spotlight – Jessica Leslie

- Jessica Leslie, Director of RAINN, Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, spoke about local sexual assault programs providing resources and trauma informed trainings.
- RAINN addresses prevention of sexual violence and provides assistance to survivors.
- Victims are using GOOGLE search and phone APPS to find crisis intervention services. Maintaining their anonymity helps victims to ask questions and seek help.
- It is very important to train the police, teachers, first responders and others who are likely to encounter victims.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers and Kathryn Pontzer

- Neda, Kathryn and Rafiah meet with Councilmember Will Jawando staffer. In the meeting the boards priorities were discussed.
- Neda's meeting with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz was cancelled.
- Neda is still attempting to set up a meeting with Councilmember Tom Hucker.
- Brian meet with Councilmembers Craig Rice. Councilmember Rice will try request more funding and appropriate resources for crime victims.
- On March the 11, Mark Elrich is hosting his weekly COVID-19 virtual media briefing.
- Robin attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meeting which focused on the juvenile diversion program in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

ACTION ITEM: Neda will send information to the Board about the meeting with Councilmember Jawando.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- Kathryn is still drafting the letters of support for 7 bills.

ACTION ITEM: The Board should give feedback to Kathryn to help finalize the 1 letters.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz and Robin Stimson

- There has been an increase in visitors due to the amounts of postings on Facebook.
- February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness month.
- Webinars can be added to address the housing need to help residents become more informed.

ACTION ITEM: Board members should send possible posts to Leah.

IX. Annual Report Approval/Planning for Upcoming Report - Rafiah/Chairs

- There is a need for help with the Annual Report.

ACTION ITEM: Board members interested in helping with the Annual Report should email Jessica and Rafiah.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2021,

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

March 25, 2021

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Quintaria Brunson, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Robin Stimson, and David Young.

Members Absent: Jill Pargamount and Reem Sharaf.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno.

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

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III. Approval of Minutes

- The February 25, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight- Leah Schwartz

- Brian is a pro bono lawyer specializing in immigration. He mentors other attorneys. He is passionate about the Board's mission and thinks there needs to be more prioritizing, helping, and funding crime victims.
- The experiences that Quintaria's daughter went through as a crime victim has motivated her to join the Board. She wants to improve resources for victims because her daughter did not get the services they were hoping and expecting to receive.
- David inquired about how the county assess services. Rafiah responded that the Department of Health and Human Services have internal customer service survey cards to help supervisors with any complaints. Also, VASAP uses PCL scales as a clinical assessment tool to show the effectiveness of treatment by showing symptom reduction in victim.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- The meeting with Councilmember Sidney Katz focused on the annual report, expanding the number of sites to perform forensic exams, and having more training to handle these cases.

- The Family Justice Center has the capacity to perform the exams but there is no funding available currently for the salary of the forensic nurse. The Board is considering whether to support any funding requests to support this.
- Leah had a meeting with the Council President, Tom Hucker and discussed housing issues. Tom stated that there is a committee working on housing issues for dv victims. Emergency housing is available but not transitional housing.
- The Board did attend last year's budget meeting. It's important for the Board to attend and share their priorities with the Council.
- Rafiah discussed the need for an electronic database for trauma services. The Department of Health and Human Services uses NexGen to house client data. Trauma Services does not use it due to privacy compliance issues which are held to a higher standard for victims of crime and domestic violence victims.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- There is legislation that wants eliminate School Resource Officers (SRO).
- The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meeting discussed the County's priority to find housing for Montgomery County residents. There is high number of evictions and lack of vaccination sites in Montgomery County compared to other counties.
- The bill to discontinue allowing drunk drivers not to get the ignition interlock device for first time offenders did not pass the Senate.
- The bill for Ghost Gun legislation is still being discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Quintaria and Kathryn will draft a letter supporting housing issues.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- Rafiah did an interview with a reporter promote resources for victims.
- Facebook has over 300 followers now, which is an increase since last year.
- April is Child Abuse Awareness and Sexual Assault Awareness month.
- Leah will share a list of events to share on social media, others are welcome to share other events.

VIII. Planning for Upcoming Annual Report – Juanita Rogers and Jessica Leslie

- Immediate help is needed to complete the annual report that is due in July 2021.

ACTION ITEM: Members interested in helping with the Annual Report should contact Juanita and Jessica.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- VSAB members Pictures need to look professional, Juanita, Jessica and Rafiah will work on it
- There was a discussion about changing the Board meetings to ZOOM instead of MS Teams.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

April 22, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

April 22, 2021

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf and David Young.

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson, Jill Pargamount and Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno.

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

I. Additions to Agenda

- Vote for ZOOM vs. TEAMS for the next Board Meeting.
- Identify priorities to go in the report and follow up with subcommittee regarding bridge housing and staffing increase.
- Funding increase is needed for domestic violence groups and funding victim's services (250 Bill)
- Kathryn suggested to make a separate section for other Bills and to expand the priorities on other bills.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

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Public bodies might wish to consider including any ground rules in the meeting notice.

III. Approval of Minutes

- The March 25, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight Leah Schwartz

- Neda is an attorney contract lawyer with expertise in privacy who works for the Federal government and who did some advocacy work in the past before joining the Board.
- Neda shared how her parents came to United States because of the Iranian revolution.
- Neda advocates for people who cannot speak for themselves.
- Neda became a victim of violent crime and shared that she did not receive the treatment and help that she needed at that time.
- Neda shared that the County has improved its services doing a great work by giving survivors the help they need.
- Neda Volunteers at Holy Cross crisis in the mental health unit which she feels is rewarding when helping vulnerable people.

- Montgomery County officers need to be more trauma informed when interviewing victims.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates– Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- In the last council member meeting oral testimony was given but not written one. Testimony was shared, was heard and received in the county council meeting.
- Kathryn requested a meeting with Raymond L. Crowel (Director of the Department of Health and Human Services). He will likely be available on early May. It will be helpful to have him in a board meeting to share the Board's concerns and priorities.
- Letter was sent to Governor Larry Hogan's office stating the demand for help due to an increase in cases of victims of violence in Montgomery County.
- Nadja met with a former privacy officer for the County. NexGen is not an option.
- The department is working on getting a database that is compliant with privacy.
- MCASA expressed that electronic medical records (EMR) is also an issue for them and for most facilities.
- There are issues with electronic medical records Statewide. Dorne Hill is in the loop of the situation of the electronic medical record situation.
- Rafiah and Nadja met Dorne Hill to get the electronic medical records situation squared away.
- Rafiah will find out who is the leader at MCASA and meet with Dorne to see if there is an update for electronic medical records.
- The importance of knowing how to speak as a victim advocate, knowing the services and to be more effective as a board member were shared.
- Recordings after meetings should be available for educational purposes to advocate victims.

ACTION ITEM: Rafiah will have a conversation with Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno to be able to target those who can provide educational information for victim advocates and then share the information gathered with the Board members.

ACTION ITEM: Prepare a Zoom educational meeting with different victim services providers (targeting the right people who can provide the information on how to educate victim advocates) including the Family Juvenile Crisis center (FJCC), the crime line, the police attorneys office, etc.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee updates– Kathryn Pontzer

- Some bills failed. Kathryn can provide more feedback through email.
- Bill for Increasing level service corporation funding did pass, there is more money going to places that need the funding for victims
- Drunk driving ignition interlock failed; senate was where the problem was.
- Regulating ghost gun both sides did not move from commodity.
- Protection for victim's legislation did pass.
- Kathryn will share the bills and why they have failed.

ACTION ITEM: for the upcoming sessions the Board will look at a priority list and reach agencies to be more active next year.

Kathryn will share the bills and why they have failed.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- April was a busy month for crime victim, sexual assault, and child abuse prevention month awareness.
- Several posts for awareness and shares of the resources were posted.
- Leah asked for collaboration and to keep sharing the resources
- May is the mental health, trauma awareness month, and national police week May 9- May 15. Virtual events will be available
- In person events by October to ensure safety by then and it will be a good opportunity to showcase great resources within the county.
- Sharing internal photos if members agree, and videos to show the community what the Board is working on.
- Leah will share the email for the member spotlight updates.
- There has been increase in suicide.
- Jessica helped to draft a few points for the proclamation for the councilmember.

VIII. Update on Upcoming Annual Report - Rafiah/Chairs

- On July the goal is to have a draft for the annual report before the following meeting.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Next meeting via ZOOM due to voting.
- Dolores shared the elaboration of an online site for rape crime, and she is preparing information, pamphlets and possibly will have them in various languages following the state and federal law for crime.
- Dolores will give and update to the board once the online site is done.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

May 27, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

May 27, 2021

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Amos Hicks III, Jill Pargamount, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf and David Young

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Jessica J. Leslie, and Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander and Dolores Briceno.

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No addition to the agenda.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

- 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

- The April 22, 2020, minutes were approved.

IV. Welcome Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services- Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Dr. Raymond Crowel shared that he took over as the Director of The Department of Health and Human Services two years ago and that he has serviced many entities as a therapist, director etc.
- The Board shared some priorities are to increase staffing for sexual assault and domestic violence programs.
- Dr. Raymond Crowel thanked all the board members for their services.
- Juanita Rogers shared that there is a possible electronic record that can work for the department (More information to come).
- 91% increase in trauma services which is a great impact on staff.
- Resources are being evaluate it to determine which record keeping is the best for the department.
- Bridge housing has been an issue and there are changes to be made.
- Properties for housing were shut down due to lead and there have not been established resources for housing.

- Dr. Crowel shared that he is pleased that the Board, the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) and the Abused Persons Program (APP) are there to help victims.
- Initiation of recovery and start re building services to help the community is one the Board's goals.
- Bridge housing, critical support and transitional housing are some of the Board's priorities.
- September is when the budget cycle starts.
- There has been an increase in the budget which might help to solve the needs of victim individuals.
- Creating a mobile system outreach crisis center is a great tool to help victims.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- There were two speakers in the May meeting with Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) Sean O'Donnell (NNLM Liaison) and, Kathleen Dumais (House of delegates).
- There will be new bills in the next session.
- Juanita Rogers had a meeting with the Maryland correlation for sexual assault (MCASA) in which several electronic databases and platforms were discussed that could potentially work for the department.
- There is going to be a consequent call to determine the platform that will work the best for the department.
- Staff members will be meeting to see what kind of system works for victim's confidentiality.
- Upcoming Panel meeting updates were shared by Dr. Rafiah.
- In the panel meeting each representative will have a minute to share and then a panel will ask questions.
- Upcoming panel meeting will probably be in September.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Rafiah is working on the list of the names that will participate in the panel/meeting to share their thoughts to be able to better assist victims.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee updates– Kathryn Pontzer

- Bill-421-gun ghost legislation passed April the 6.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- The subcommittee has done a tremendous job with the posts.
- Posts show the community what the board does and how the Board supports victims.
- June is National Safety Month.

VIII. Update on Upcoming Annual Report - Jessica Leslie (not present)

IX. Board Member spotlight Leah Schwartz

- The Board members will share some insights.
- Sharing insights is important, so the Board is aware about what is happening in the community.

- The Board's mission and vision relate to the job done at the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP).

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Dr. Rafiah shared some of her personal and professional experiences.
- Dr. Rafiah supervised child abuse programs and worked with offending and non-offending parents while living in Florida.
- Dr. Rafiah Supervises victim advocates, therapists, therapy fairs, co-chair sexual assault response team, and participate in the Board (VSAB) etc. for Montgomery County Trauma Services.
- Dr. Rafiah's mission is to help victims.
- There has been a significant increase in caseloads for therapists.
- Capturing clients for therapists have been a challenge.
- Dr. Rafiah explained they likely cannot, work with media since they are under the County Executive's Office and there are procedures.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Rafiah will find out if the board can approach the media and will report back.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

June 24, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

June 24, 2021

Attendance: Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Jessica J. Leslie, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, and Robin Stimson.

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson, Brian Koosed, Jill Pargamount, Reem Sharaf and David Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno.

Support Staff: Dr. Rafiah Prince and Maria V. Solis.

I. Additions to Agenda

- No addition to the agenda.

II. Virtual Meeting Procedures – Juanita Rogers

- 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.

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III. Approval of Minutes

- The May 27, 2020, minutes were NOT approved.

IV. Guest Speaker (45) – Jill Larson, LCSW-C, Program Director and Clinical Director, Betty Ann Krankhe Center

- Jill Larson, LCSW-C, Program Director and Clinical Director, Betty Ann Krankhe center presented a power point sharing what BAK (Betty Ann Krankhe) does and what their mission is.
- Jill Larson, LCSW-C has been a therapist for ten years and worked for seventeen years in law enforcement did undercover services for FBI.
- Betty ANN Krankhe shelter (BAK) is a facility shelter with sixty beds which serves Montgomery County residents who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- Betty ANN Krankhe shelter BAK has a clinical staff team who are diverse and have experience on survivor's trauma for over 62 years.
- Provides immediate crisis stabilization support for survivors.
- There has been an increase on Mental health, substance disorders and strangulation cases.

- Betty ANN Krankhe shelter BAK connects children and teenagers who present substance abuse during the pandemic with Safe start and Bart T.
- Betty ANN Krankhe shelter BAK collaborates with Child Protective Services CPS for those who experience domestic violence and child abuse.
- Betty ANN Krankhe shelter BAK provides daily activities to promote wellness and self-care.
- Betty ANN Krankhe shelter BAK is currently at maximum capacity which is not usual for this time of year.
- Bridge housing and permanently housing is one of the Boards priorities.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Apricot and other electronic record system are being considered for the department.
- In September, the Board will have more than one speaker to talk about victim services.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee updates – Kathryn Pontzer

- A discussion needs to take place about the next subcommittee.
- The Board needs to have a conversation about what the subcommittee should be working on
- **ACTION ITEM** Kathryn would like to give some ideas for letters coming up in the future.

VII. Board Member spotlight- Leah Schwartz

- Review of what has been beneficial about the work done by the Board.
- The Board members should share their knowledge to the months to come ahead.
- There is a need to have a strategy session to discuss what the priorities for the Board should be.

ACTION ITEM: Increasing knowledge and sharing out to the public.

ACTION ITEM: Leah will send an email to the Board members to encourage sharing out to the public.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- Praises to Amos who has been doing a tremendous job about posting this last month
- Currently forty new followers in a month, outreach has been expanded.
- Everyone welcomed to invite their friends to the Board page in Facebook.
- Members spotlight to come within the next month.
- Looking up for new community events and in person activities.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The Board members will be sharing emails containing information done by the subcommittee.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Monday night the Board will be presenting the quarterly meeting to Dr. Crowel
- The Board will be presenting priorities such as Bridge housing, COVID-19, and Staffing issues.

ACTION ITEM: Reach out to other members that have missed the meetings to approve the Minutes from previous and current meetings.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

July 22, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM