

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

July 22, 2021

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

Members Absent: Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Anabelle Gerendasy on behalf of Ellen Alexander.

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

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No addition to the agenda.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures – Kathryn Pontzer

- 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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 - 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 for April 22, 2021, May 27,2021, June 24, 2021

- The April 22, 2021, May 27, 2021 and June 24, 2021 minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight - Leah Schwartz

- Leah is a social worker and Mental Health Therapist. She focuses on Child and Family services.
- Leah decided to join the Board because she believes that is important to impact the system around us by providing services and advocating people.
- Leah shared some of the experiences she has had working with a Family who experienced domestic violence and shared that there was a lack of resources for the victims.
- Victims may not receive the help they need due to gaps between services, barriers such as language, distances, and timing for the resources available.
- Increasing mobile resources and working closely with staff at the shelters is important.
- The importance of working with VASAP connecting victims to other resources and the need of expanding the trauma team were shared.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates

- a. Report on Quarterly BCC Meeting with Dr. Crowel - Juanita Rogers
Juanita will update the Board in the next session/ opportunity.
- b. Report on CJCC Meeting -Robin Stimson
N/A

VI. Legislative Subcommittee– Kathryn Pontzer

- Members are encouraged to do their own advocacy letters and to continue with the subcommittee work.
- Board members are encouraged to help in the legislative subcommittee by taking one piece of legislation and writing a letter and tracking the progress of it.
- Board members are encouraged to periodically search and update other Board members about the progress of certain Bills.
- The goal is to have at least four Bills ready by September/October.
- Members are encouraged to do research in the fall about what the Board will be supporting and posting in the near future.
- Kathryn would like to have a meeting before the next September Board meeting to find out who would like to be a member of the subcommittee who will be active and provide the support needed.
- Kathryn Suggested to support four bills and be more supportive and proactive in those four rather focusing on several bills.
- Kathryn will send an email regarding the repeal spousal defense Bill.
- Dr. Rafiah suggested to have one on one meetings with the members to have a better understanding about what the Board is doing and the its priorities.
ACTION ITEM: A doodle poll will be sent for the legislative subcommittee to have a meeting.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- President Biden signed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) a couple days ago which it has been shared out by the subcommittee.
- July 30th is the World Day against trafficking in persons.
- Board Members are encouraged to share information with others through Facebook and emails.
- The week of September 5 -11 is the National Suicide Prevention week.
- Organizations are coming out to in person activities.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Let Leah Schwartz know about beneficial events to share.

VIII. Annual Report update - Jessica Leslie

- Jessica shared the annual report FY2020-2021.
- The report includes Front page, table of content, messages from our chairs, and the board mission.
- Membership holders is missing; members are encouraged to send the information to Jessica Leslie.
- The Betty Ann Krahnke (BAK) chart for the Bridge housing in the annual report updates is missing.

- Funding increase, expansion of services and increase staffing are the Board's priorities.
- Jessica encouraged members to read through the report and provide feedback.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- There is no September Board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Do a doodle poll to discuss for in person meetings for the future.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

September 23, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

September 23, 2021

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

Members Absent: Quintaria Brunson Jill Pargamont Reem Sharaf, and Robin Stimson.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dolores Briceno.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- Dr. Prince has two additions to the Agenda:
- Organizing interviews for new members and requesting Board members to volunteer to be in the meetings.
- Having at least two volunteers from the Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) to go with Dr. Prince to meetings on Wednesdays at the police academy regarding human trafficking.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Juanita

- 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 June 24, 2021, meeting– Juanita

- The July 22, 2021, Minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight – Leah Schwartz

- David Young shared some of the things that made him be part of the board.
- David Young has spent the last seven years working in Violent conflict helping the government to reduce conflict and improve the ability to understand conflict.
- David Young has been helping vulnerable Afghans who are coming to the US as refugees and keeping them safe.
- Afghans could be helped by the community by doing fundraisers/ donations to help them.

V. Discussion on Board Priorities for FY 2022-2023 – Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Juanita, Kathryn and Dr. Prince met with Nadja Cabello, manager of Trauma Services regarding the Board's priorities.
- Kathryn Pontzer shared some of the priorities and shared Nadja's feedback.
- Priorities for HHS work Sessions with the County Council Committee are due by November 8.
- The goal is to have one page containing priorities in writing.
- The Victim Advisory Board will be scheduling to meet with the Council Executive Office and then meeting individual Council Members.
- Potential Board priorities are:
 - Additional services for HHS/Trauma Services (VASAP/APP)
 - Victim Advocate positions throughout the county
 - Funding for community educator
 - Montgomery County victim compensation fund increase
 - BAK operational and ADA reform needs
 - Supporting forensic exams for SA victims (further discussion with Jessica Voltz for focus on how to expand)
 - Housing
 - Others (Gun violence, human trafficking, crisis center funding, mental health-related concerns, etc.)
- Two highlights should be incorporated and testified in three minutes.
- Brian Koosed offered himself to testify.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates– Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Victim Electronic Health Records: The department has had meetings with different platforms providers. The department is actively trying to find the right platform. Timeline for the platform is unknown.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates– Kathryn Pontzer

- The Victim Advisory Board could support the four bills that did not pass, and the pieces of legislation that will be dropped.
- Members who would like to make connections with other offices let Kathryn Pontzer know.
- Kathryn will send a list to all board members on how to reach offices, members, and how write the letters.
- Volunteers are needed to help write letters of support, utilizing the correct format and correct writing.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- October is National Crime Prevention, Bullying prevention, Mental Health Awareness, and Domestic Violence Awareness month.
- There are plenty of events and opportunities for the Board to be part of during the Month of October.
- Leah will share a list of events happening this Month via email.
- Some events are happening in person and the Board would like members to attend events.

- Doing fundraisers and creating a collage to show the Board's participation were discussed.

IX. Annual Report Update– Jessica Leslie

- Jessica Leslie made a presentation of the updated Report.
- Dr. Prince is working on some pieces for content to be incorporated in the Annual Report.
- It was requested that members send their information and pictures to Leah to incorporate in the report.

X. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Volunteers for the interviews the week of October 4, at least three members for each interview are needed.
- Neda, Larry, and Juanita volunteered to assist in the volunteer's interview for new members.
- David, Neda, and Juanita would like to attend the meetings at the police academy.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

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

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

October 28, 2021

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

Members Absent: Larry Center, Reem Sharaf.

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 additions.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Juanita

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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III. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2021, meeting– Juanita

- The September 2021 Minutes were approved.

IV. Knowledge Share: Serving Victims of Crimes - Guest Speakers: - Juanita Rogers/Kathryn

- **Debbie Feinstein, Esq, Senior Assistant State's Attorney & Chief, Special Victims Division:**
More support to be able to help victim coordinators who work extraordinary hours. Victim coordinators do a lot of training with staff on trauma informed approach and can always use more. Collaboration between agencies within the County is very important when helping victims.
- **Sergeant Jason Bahm Sexual Assault Unit family outreach section.** Has been a police officer for twenty-eight years. Helping people to scape situations that seemed impossible to escape makes a difference. He Works closely with VASAP Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program. There is a gap that needs to be filled is the need to provide “Hope Phones” to victims of sexual assault. The Family Justice Center has phones but those are for the domestic violence unit.
- **Nurse Vania Baioni, from the Forensic Medical Unit of Adventist Shady Grove Medical Center**

Vania has been working on the Forensic unit since 2015, she has had a great experience. She has noticed an increase in victims for domestic violence since the pandemic, strangulation is the most common for domestic violence.

- **Jodi Finkelstein, Human Trafficking Prevention Committee of the Commission for Women**

Serves as a connector and find the gaps and work towards prevention of future gaps. Follows policy legislation that protects survivors of human trafficking.

- **Ashley Noy, Client Assistance Specialist Assistant Client Specialist for domestic violence cases at the Family Justice Center.** Clients that may come to the unit feel safe. There are amenities such as toys for children in a designated area, a kitchen. Etc. The Family Justice center serves females and males. Their staff is bilingual (English and Spanish). The Family Justice Center needs more funding to be able to help more victims because of the case load being so high.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates

- Testimony was sent out to Board Members and, there is an opportunity for the testimony to be reviewed and edited if needed.
- The testimony contains the Board's priority, one of them being the staffing for the programs.
- Dr. Rafiah prepared data to show the increase on caseloads, on therapist needs and intake unit.
- Dorne Hill (HHS Senior Administrator of Crisis Services, Intake and Trauma Services) talked about the increase in intakes.
- Housing priority was also discussed, Dorne Hill mentioned she was having a meeting with Amanda Harris (Chief, Special Needs Housing, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services).
- Increase in funding, and transportation improvement for victims.

VI. Approval of Annual Report – Jessica Leslie

- The annual report has been completed.
- There are minor things that need to be added Jessica needs to put some information about the Board members.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update: Outreach and Preparation for 2022– Kathryn

- Kathryn sent an overview of the format for writing the testimony and which will help the search in the assembly for testimony.
- Brian Koosed will contact Delegate David Moon's office.
- Kathryn will present her input on December 2nd, 2021.
- Legislation list that we can support this year will be presented.
- Volunteers to help write letters to support the bills.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- October was a very busy month, and a lot of resources were shared out.
- Followers show that the information they are receiving is important to know.
- Multiple families have come from Afghanistan and who need access to our resources.

- Board Members please share events, legislation updates, and victim resources out to the community.
- National Family Caregivers Month is in the Month of November.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- The annual report was approved and will be ready soon to be shared out.
- The Preparation of the testimony.
- It will be helpful to have a summarized report about legislation and then to be added all together.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

December 2, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

December 2, 2021

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

Ex-Officio Members: Dolores Briceno.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No addition to the agenda.
- Had a guest (Ms. Tondalayo Royster).

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Juanita

- 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 October 28, 2021, meeting– Juanita

- The October 28, 2021, Minutes were approved.

IV. Board Member spotlight (30) – Leah Schwartz

N/A

V. Discussion on Board Priorities for 2021-2022– Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Board meetings with County Executive and County Council are to be scheduled.
- Board members who are interested to meet with a specific County Executive and County Council let Rafiah and Kathryn know.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates– Juanita Rogers/Kathryn Pontzer

- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) when reporting any police crime involved would go back to a centralized unit.
- For Police accountability a Board will be created by the Council and Executive members.
- Quarterly review of disciplinary reports at a macrolevel to overlook patterns within the county.

- Disciplinary actions to police officers according to a threshold nationwide.
- Larry joined the police meeting.
- Larry shared: that the level of honesty and openness in the meetings and the way people are welcoming are admirable.
- There are many challenges that police officers face such as violence in high schools
- Level of violence in schools has increase substantially.
- Board members explained how the board can help the police officers when facing these issues.
- The role of the Victim Services Advisory Board VSAB is to be supportive and to help referring people within the county to other services that are needed.
- Commission for women, human trafficking committee join these meetings with the police department.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee updates– Kathryn Pontzer

- There are fifteen bills for the board members to proceed.
- The ideal number of bills that should be addressed is ten and write ten letters, but the board can support many others.
- Bills VSAB supported in 2021 that will be re-introduced in 2022 include: Repeal of Spousal Defense, Drunk Driving Offenses, Ghost Guns, Probation Before Judgment/Extend Lack of Conviction to Federal Law, Stalking/Electronic Tracking, Interim and Temporary Protective Order/Virtual Petition and Hearing, Police Training/Stalkerware, Business Regulation/Innkeepers/Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training, Body Cameras/Victim Privacy, Explanation of Decision Not to Prosecute, Safe Harbor/Child Sex Trafficking , Tender Heart Doctrine/Hearsay Exception, Child Custody/Visitation/Reasonable Effort to Protect, Child Sex Abuse/Expanding Statute of Limitations, Child Sex Abuse/Person in Position of Authority.
- Kathryn will send a list with the revised bills to proceed.
- Delegate Moon's office has not gotten back to Brian.
- Each of the outlined bills will be supported.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah Schwartz

- Post more about the legislation.
- If you go to meetings please let us know, to report in facebook.
- As the meeting come up it would be good to post in Facebook.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Dr. Rafiah thanked for those who helped with the interviews.
- People who were interviewed in November will be working with the Board possibly next meeting.
- Jessica Leslie will be leaving the Board. (Moving to Washington State).
- Board Members to vote on the Bills to support in 2022.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: January 27, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 P

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

January 27, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Ashley N. Mack, Stephanie M. Ogorzalek, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Heather Thompson, Meshon Watkins, and David Young.

Members Absent: Larry Center.

Ex-Officio Members: Martha O’Liddy replaces Dolores Briceno.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Juanita

- 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 December 2, 2021, meeting– Kathryn

- Minutes were approved.

IV. Welcome New Board Members & Introductions- Kathryn & Juanita Rogers

- Board Members introduced themselves to the new Board Members and vice versa.
- Dolores Briceno will be leaving the Board and Martha O’Liddy will be on Board.
- Wendy Ayala is a Program Manager for a College.
- Stephanie Ogorzalek is the director for the Office of Global Women’s Issues.
- Ashley Mack works at a Public Health advisor for the Federal Government and has victim services experience.
- Meshon Watkins works for a nonprofit in Washington DC that deals with 50 plus community, she has done domestic violence shelter work for three years in Alexandria.
- Heather Thompson works as a Legal Assistant
- Martha O’Liddy works for the State’s Attorney’s Office SAO.

V. Executive Subcommittee updates – Kathryn & Juanita

- Councilmember Hans Riemer engaged and provided some good ideas, overall meeting went well. Councilmember Hans Riemer is interested in the Board's work and seems interested in housing issues on how to be funded.
- Councilmember Will Jawando seemed very interested on the work that the Board does and will push for victim compensation. He would like to go with the Board to the Betty Ann Krahnke center (BAK).
- Councilmember Sidney Katz meeting went well. He is on board with the Board's priorities.
- Councilmember Evan Glass meeting is Friday January 29th, 2022.
- Councilmember Tom Huckler meeting is February 4th at 1pm.
- Councilmember Gabe Albornoz meeting is on February 3rd at 10 am with Kathryn Pontzer, Brian Koosed and Reem Sharaf.
- VSAB member Brian Koosed will follow up regarding the Councilmember meeting Craig Rice.
- School safety meeting was pleasant; Marcus Jones did a very nice presentation.
- Safety Resource officer's SROs were removed, and the county has created community engagement officers, who are responsible for cluster of students.
- Volunteers who are interested in participating in the police meetings let Rafiah Know.
- Ghost Gun Legislation has not been scheduled but it has been introduced.
- Ghost gun refers to an unregistered firearm that can be ordered in three different parts.

VI. Legislative Subcommittee update – Kathryn

- Convey the Boards advocacy work such as the Bills to be supported through Facebook.
- Providing the information about what the Board supports and tagging other entities through social media
- Elaborate a web page and add links summaries about what the board is supporting.
- The Board can send out information and have it posted through the county.
- Fifteen Bills were discussed in the December meeting to be supported.
- Letters are to be submitted ahead of time to be able to get an approval under a time dateline.
- The list of the Bills to be supported were brought out to the new Board members.

VII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah Schwartz

- New members are encouraged to share, like, comment and join the Facebook page.
- If members go and or are aware of other events and activities, please share and send to the subcommittee for them to share out to the community.
- National Human Trafficking Awareness is January 11th.
- February is the National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- Participation in the Facebook page has significantly increased.
- Neda has posted about Mental Health Awareness which are showing to be interesting to people.

- Kathryn will work in a one pager with the links and information to be sent.
- Neda will be writing the Human Trafficking Letter.
- Explanation of Decision not to prosecute Brian Koosed is writing that letter is due February 8th.

VIII. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Invite a police officer to join the next Board meeting.
- Doodle poll was sent out for members to vote on the bills to be supported.
- Only seven Members responded to the doodle poll.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

February 24, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

February 24, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Ashley N. Mack, Kathryn Pontzer, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, Heather Thompson, Meshon Watkins, and David Young.

Members Absent: Stephanie M. Ogorzalek, Juanita Rogers.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander, Martha O'Liddy.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- Juanita Rogers will still be part of the board but not the co-chair.
- Kathryn will be stepping down from co-chair by June if there is a second person to step in into the co-chair position.
- Neda was nominated by Kathryn to be the co-chair; Neda accepted the nomination.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Juanita

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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III. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2022, meeting– Kathryn

- Minutes were approved.

IV. Member Spotlight- Leah Schwartz

- Leah Schwartz invited to share connections to the Board that all members may have, such as ideas that the board can support.
- Leah Schwartz will send the questionnaire about how to know more and support victims.
- Wendy Ayala shared: She works at a local college Access Program providing community resources to young adults within the community
- Wendy's position encourages and provides information to their clients to make use of Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program VASAP and Abused Persons Program APP.

- Young adults specially victims of sexual assault may come to the programs once and not come back may be due to not being ready for counseling.
- Victims may come back after months because of triggers.

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Biennial Survey of Service Providers - Preparation - Review of Questions, Target Providers, Timeline, Volunteer Interviewers- Kathryn, Rafiah

- Every other year the Board conducts interviews to Montgomery County agencies and nonprofit organizations to incorporate in the annual report.
- Interviews coming up in March.
- Board Members to review the questionnaire and send their updates to Brian Koosed.
- Kathryn Pontzer, Neda Bolourian, Rafiah Prince, Wendy Ayala and Larry Center will be participating in the Mental Health Town Hall meeting.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates

- Neda Bolourian created a chart with the updates on the County Council and County Executive Meetings and was sent to all Board Members on behalf of Dr. Rafiah Prince.
- Councilmembers had some good ideas and are very interested in what the Board is doing.
- Keeping connections with councilmembers will be helpful.
- Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Mental Health will be held on March 1 at 7pm.
- Amanda Harris team to follow up regarding the Housing Program.
- Leah will register to speak in the Councilmember Gabe Alborno meeting.
- Meeting with the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Prevention Committee is on March 16th noon-1:30pm.
- Leah Schwartz and Ashley Mack will attend the meeting with the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Prevention Committee.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update – Kathryn

- Senate Judicial proceeding voted to 4 or 5 Bills that are in the list of Bills that the Board is supporting
- Board Members may have to respond to all fifteen Bills.
- Other potential legislation that the Board can support can be shared out to Board Members.
- Priority Repeal of spousal defense in the committee it was held it was not voted on.
- The electronic stalking definition Bill passed unanimously.
- Protective Orders can be done electronically.
- Abused Persons Program APP and Victim Assistance & Sexual Assault Program VASAP could be doing this electronically for Temporary orders.
- Kathryn will send the presentation that Lesly Frey put together.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah

- February was an active month for the Facebook page.
- If any Board Member knows of other events let the other members know.
- Leah Schwartz thanked for following and sharing in the Facebook page.

- Reminder: to keep in mind that is important to pay attention to Judicial and Legislative hearings.
- Leah is joining the meeting in the uprising violence in students of Montgomery County and will like to request sometime in the next board meeting to share.
- Leah invited to share and post in social media to expand the Boards' reach within the community to continue rising awareness.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Nadja is retiring and Rafiah has been acting as Manager.
- Board members will put something together for Nadja's retirement.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

March 24, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

March 24, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Amos Hicks III, Brian Koosed, Ashley N. Mack, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, Reem Sharaf, and Meshon Watkins.

Members Absent: Stephanie M. Ogorzalek, Heather Thompson, David Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Martha O'Liddy.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- Budget season.
- Member Spotlight will be shared in April's meeting.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Neda

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
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III. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2022, meeting– Neda

- The February 24, 2022, Minutes were approved.

IV. Member Spotlight - Leah Schwartz n/a next month to incorporate numbers.

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Biennial Survey of Service Providers - Preparation - Review of Questions, Target Providers, Timeline, Volunteer Interviewers- Neda, Brian, and others

- Overview of the Survey of Service Providers questionnaire.
- Subcommittee diligently worked on the Survey of Service Providers questionnaire and changes were shared.
- The Victim Services Providers questionnaire was edited to capture more accurate information.
- Answers from providers will go in the annual report.

- Information from the Service Provider Survey can be used by different entities to better advocate.
- Survey allows organizations capture what is happening and how to help victims in many ways.
- The Services providers Survey provide feedback on issues to be changed and to be able to better advocate.
- The Board decided that the questionnaire needs to be edited and it will be sent out.
- An e-mail with an updated list of providers will be sent out to all Board members.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates

- Board Member Leah Schwartz met with Councilmember Andrew Friedson.
- Board's priorities were shared: The need of Therapists, Victim Advocates, Bridge Housing and Victim Assistance Fund.
- Board's priorities were not in the County's Budget for last year.
- April 1st is the meeting with County Executive Marc Elrich.
- The Board's priorities were conveyed during the meeting with Council Member Craig.
- Community Engagement Officers replace School Resource Officers SRO's.
- On April 1st, the Community Engagement Officers will be assigned clusters of schools where they will patrol.
- Detectives are working on detecting Ghost Gun origins; many of them have been confiscated.
- Increase of caseloads at the Courts due to disruption with COVID.
- The District Court is fully staffed.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update – Kathryn

- Repeal of Spousal Defense hearing has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee after passing through the Senate in a unanimous vote.
- The Victims Services Advisory Board VSAB will submit a letter to the Judiciary Committee to oppose the changes.
- The letter to oppose the changes will have to be sent to Lesly Frey (Intergovernmental Relations Legislative Analyst) to upload by April 5th.
- For the Electronic Stalking Bill, a minor change was introduced by Senator Susan Lee.
- Abused Persons Program (APP), and Victim Assistance and Sexual Program (VASAP) can now work with victims assisting them with protective orders in a virtual manner.
- Eleven Bills have moved from Chambers.
- Boards members are encouraged to track Bills that the Board supports.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah

- Like, follow, share and post resources.
- Advocating the effort regarding the council budget in the month of April.
- Victims Services Advisory Board (VSAB) recognition event is being planned.

- Staff and volunteers' recognition event.
- April is the Crime Victim Awareness Month.
- Governors have a conference every year.
- Leah will share the link for the Governor's conference.
- Other events during the week of April 24-30 will be shared.
- April is the National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Subcommittee (Leah) will share more details via e-mail.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Virtual Retirement party for Nadja on 3/25/22.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

April 28, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

April 28, 2022

Attendance: Wendy Ayala, Neda Bolourian, Larry Center, Brian Koosed, Ashley N. Mack, Kathryn Pontzer, Juanita Rogers, Leah Schwartz, and Meshon Watkins.

Members Absent: Amos Hicks III, Reem Sharaf, Heather Thompson, and David Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Ellen Alexander.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Martha O'Liddy.

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Kathryn Pontzer

- 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 March 24, 2022, meeting– Kathryn

- The March 24, 2022, Minutes were approved.

IV. Member Spotlight - Ellen Alexander

- Ellen Alexander is the director and oversees the Montgomery County Police Department unit.
- Ellen Alexander shared outstanding details of their services and the trainings that Police officers go through.
- Respond to all crimes prioritizing people depending on their needs.
- Oversees homicide, attempted homicide, rape, sexual assault, and child cases.
- The Department provides shelter, counseling, referrals to programs within the County, food stamps, and long-term disabilities, etc.,
- Works closely with VASAP helping victims with compensations, court orders and other services.
- Homicides have increased since the pandemic.
- 40+ victims of homicides.

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Progress on Biennial Survey of Service Providers; Sections of Report that can be written now - Kathryn, Neda Bolourian, and others

- Surveys will be collected by Neda Bolourian.
- Feedback from surveys were shared by Board Members.
- Annual report will include the Housing and Staffing issues.
- Kathryn will take on the Housing section for the Annual report writing and encouraged other Board members to take on other sections.
- Annual Report to be ready by July.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates

- Marc Elrich (Montgomery County Executive) meeting on April 1st.
- Neda Bolourian shared Housing issues in the meeting with the County Executive Marc Elrich.
- Dr. Rafiah Prince and Dr. Earl Stoddard (Assistant Chief Administrative Officer) discussed some details for the need to increase the victim compensation funds.
- The Board was proactive in meeting with council members.
- Large number of people who testify in the Budget Hearing.
- During the Director's Quarterly Leadership Meeting, the Board's chairs were given the opportunity to update Directors regarding the progress and the work done by the Victim Services Advisory Board.
- Dr. Raymond Crowel (Director Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services) shared some general budget increase information.
- Education, School, Budget, and Victim Funds were some of the key items.
- The Board priorities will be established by September to present to Dr. Raymond Crowel.
- Budget meeting must happen to fulfill the Boards priorities.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update – Kathryn

Six Bills passed:

- SB387/HB425 - Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms.
- SB328/HB148 - Criminal Law – Stalking.
- SB134 - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Training Requirements - Electronic Stalking.
- SB91/HB270 - Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy.
- SB20/HB284– Criminal Procedure – Out of Court Statements – Child Victims.
- SB280/HB296 - Interim and Temporary Protective Order/Virtual Petition and Hearing.

Bills that did not pass:

- SB33/HB153 - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense.
- SB300/HB225 - Criminal Procedure - Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior.
- SB31 - Public Information Act - Inspection of Records from Body-Worn Digital Recording Devices.
- SB768/HB 833 - Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates – Leah

- May events have been posted in Facebook, so people can start registering for.
- Encourage other members to share, like these events to reach out more people in the community.
- Children, Women and General Mental health awareness Month.
- May is The National Community Action Month.
- May is The Children Mental Health Month.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Satisfactory Survey requires a phone call and is five questions.
- Brian Koosed, Neda Bolourian, and Wendy Ayala volunteered to start surveying clients.
- Kathryn Pontzer will be handing out surveys to clients.
- Screenshots of meetings (County Policy and Rules) to be reviewed.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

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

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

May 26, 2022

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

Members Absent: Amos Hicks III, Ashley N. Mack Meshon Watkins.

Ex-Officio Members: Dolores Briceno.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ellen Alexander

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

I. Additions to Agenda

- No additions to the agenda.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- 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 March 24, 2022, meeting– Kathryn

- The April 28, 2022, Minutes were approved.

IV. Member Spotlight - Leah Schwartz

- Dr. Rafiah Prince shared a summary of the work she does for Montgomery County Government:
 - a. Oversees victims of assaults, homicide, frauds, any type of victimization, partner related abuse, therapy, etc.
 - b. Hiring.
 - c. Supervisory Therapist for eight years
 - d. Acting role as a Manager for Trauma Services.
- Electronic database is a positive change.
- Working on having an intake unit.

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Progress on Biennial Survey of Service Providers; Sections of Report that can be written now - Kathryn, Neda Bolourian, and others

- Service Providers Surveys have been collected from Board Members.
- Participation in the annual report is valued.
- Annual Report format was discussed.
- Brian Koosed and Larry Center volunteered to be editors.
- Legislative portion will be incorporated.
- Annual report should include pre and post pandemic information in the County Council section.

VI. Executive Subcommittee updates

- Funding of \$500,000 were awarded to the Homelessness Prevention Center for a Domestic Violence Project (for Housing).
 - Rapid Rehousing Case Management Services were discussed.
 - Rapid Rehousing Center has Seventy beds and twenty units.
 - Denise Anderson coordinates to place victims in hotels when Betty Ann Krahnke shelter is at full capacity.
 - Landlords are not allowing tenants who are victims of domestic violence.
 - Leah Schwartz and Neda Bolourian attended Senator Susan Lee legislation Meeting.
 - Montgomery County Police Department new structures and accountability.
 - Police Complains Activities will be connected to 311 systems.
 - Increase on Juvenile crimes in Montgomery County.
- ACTION ITEM:** Complete Annual Report by July 2022.

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update– Kathryn

- Expand the work at a state level.
 - Writing letters for legislation.
 - Tracking legislation.
 - Lesly Frey Intergovernmental Relations Legislative Analyst will be doing a presentation on the process of tracking Legislation.
- ACTION ITEM:** Email Michael Lord Chief of Staff for State Senator Susan Lee.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah

- May is the Mental Health Awareness (AIP AWARENESS) and support.
- May is the Asian, Pacific American Heritage Month.
- June is LGBT pride Month.
- June is the National Safety Month.
- Wear orange Day is June 3rd.
- Leah encourage Board Members to wear orange and share pictures in social media.
- Gun Violence Awareness event June 1st.
- Wear Orange events: June 1st in Takoma Park, June 4th in Gaithersburg, and June 14th in Rockville Montgomery County Council.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Kathryn Pontzer stepped down from Co-chair.
- Brian Kossed was nominated as the new Co-chair.
- Dr. Rafiah Prince invited Board Members to the Human Trafficking Meeting.
- Increasing the Victim’s fund from \$2500 to \$5000 is still pending for approval By Marc Elrich (Montgomery County Executive).
- The Formal letter Victim’s Fund to County Executive will be shared out to the Community.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

June 23, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (VSAB)

June 23, 2022

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

Members Absent: Amos Hicks III, Ashley N. Mack, Juanita Rogers, 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 additions to the agenda.

II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures- Kathryn Pontzer

- The rules for a virtual Board meeting are as follows:
The chair will call the roll to establish a quorum.
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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 May 27, 2022, meeting– Kathryn

- The May 27, 2022, Minutes were approved.

IV. Member Spotlight - Leah Schwartz

N/A

V. Annual Report 2021-2022: Progress on Biennial Survey of Service Providers; Sections of Report that can be written now- Kathryn, Neda Bolourian, and others

- Sections of the Annual Report are being written by Board Members.
- Editors for the Annual report: Brian Koosed, Neda Bolourian and Larry Center.
- Mission From Co-Chairs will be edited by Neda Bolourian and Kathryn Pontzer.
- Updates on the “Victim Activity Highlights and Bridge Housing” section.
- Staffing for Victim’s section will be edited by Neda Bolourian.
- Public Education to edited by Leah Schwartz and Neda Bolourian
- Wendy Ayala will review the “Looking forward to FY22 and FY23 section”.
- Ten surveys were received.
- Two more providers were surveyed and waiting for their response.
- Wendy Ayala, Meshon Watkins, and Neda Bolourian will review survey responses.

VI. Executive Subcommittee update (30 Minutes) - Kathryn, Neda

- Bridge Housing
- Staffing

VII. Legislative Subcommittee update (5 Minutes) – Kathryn

- Participate on the July 18th presentation with Leslie Frey.

VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates (20 Minutes) – Leah

- Teenagers are being affected by Gun Violence.
- Advocating for Homicide survivors' families.
- Awareness about Resources for cleaning homes after Homicides.
- Montgomery County Government responds to suicides.
- Leah Schwartz is a social worker who advocates for people's rights; and advocate for those who do not have a voice capacity.
- Leah Schwartz joined the Victim Services Advisory Board because it is important to help those who are victims and to facilitate resources to them.
- Awareness of the Mental Health Forum throughout the community.
- Support victims of violence.

IX. Announcements/Comments/New Business

- Leah shared an event where Dr. Raymond Crowel was present regarding school systems, trauma cases and newcomers' population.

Adjournment 8:30 PM

Next Meeting:

July 28, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM