

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – January 25, 2021
MINUTES
*****Approved*****

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on January 25, 2021 on a remote Zoom virtual meeting.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Robin Hornbuckle
Brian Mackie

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst
Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Claims Analyst
Tracy Hogan, Victim Rights Departmental
Technician
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Robert Spada, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commissioners members. Mr. Mackie provided an overview of the Crime Victim Services program and explained how the remote Zoom meeting would proceed.

Approval of Agenda – Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the January 25, 2021 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment – Becky Carson, the Executive Director for CASA for Kids Inc. in Barry, Eaton and Ingham Counties called in about a letter sent to Ms. Cain regarding CASA. Ms. Povilaitis read the letter aloud.

Amy Bailey said National CASA provides extensive pre-service training on addressing racial disparities for staff and volunteers.

Brenda Baker said Oakland County CASA has been the recipient of a grant from a National CASA to focus on diversity.

Approval of Open Session Minutes – Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle to approve the open session minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales to approve the closed session minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Ms. Cain said a compensation hotline and a new phone number for victims are close to being setup.

Ms. Povilaitis said a new legislative term just began. The bills related to compensation funding did not pass out of the legislature. Ms. Povilaitis thinks that these bills may appear again and said she will let Commission members know if that happens.

Patty Sabin from the Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provided a presentation on Michigan CASA. She said CASA volunteers advocate for children’s best interest through information gathering, visiting the child three to four times per month, and working collaboratively with legal, child welfare and other partners to assure service provision that is in the child’s best interest. CASA volunteers are carefully screened per National CASA standards and are trained using National CASA Training and Facilitation Standards.

Report of the Members – Dr. Fales spoke about his appearance on the NBC Nightly News regarding use of monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of COVID-19 patients that is currently available, but underutilized.

Mr. Fitz said the Commission staff doing a terrific job.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business -

A. Appeals - None.

Mr. Mackie advised the Commission would go into a closed hearing at 10:18 a.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

Ms. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt