

**CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**Meeting – May 17, 2021**  
**MINUTES**  
**\*\*\*Approved\*\*\***

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on May 17, 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  
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager  
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney  
Rob Spada, Staff Attorney  
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commission 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. Hornbuckle to approve the May 17, 2021 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Open Session Minutes - Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Fitz to approve the open session minutes from the May 3, 2021 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment - None.

Staff Report - Ms. Cain said the MICA VS software project was scheduled to be finished by last December but is still not completed. The phone application part of MICA VS will be completed first to allow victims to have access. Ms. Ely was chosen to be the primary liaison to correspond with HTC and DTMB regarding the MICA VS software project. A recent demonstration of the system was provided for executives of DTMB and DHHS, where staff could review and note what is needed to better serve victims.

Ms. Banks spoke about the Navigator program. A Navigator is an advocate who works one on one with victims to help them apply for the compensation program. A 2-year pilot program is taking place in Alpena, Alcona, Iona, Presque Isle, Wayne, Genesee, Muskegon, and Ogemaw Counties. The goal is to eventually have a Navigator for every county in Michigan. The program is now operational and has received good responses.

Mr. McCurtis is looking forward to hiring an in-house Navigator to begin work on June 14<sup>th</sup> who will help victims obtain the resources they need. A new Department Tech, Tia Johnson will also be starting on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Cain said that Mr. Mackie, Mr. Fitz and Board staff met with Michigan State Representative Jim Lilly to relay the concerns the Commission had with HB 4674-75 concerning victim compensation. She said the Representative was open to hearing the Commission's concerns on various issues.

Ms. Povilaitis discussed HB 4670 - 4673 which would create "productivity credits" to be earned by eligible MDOC prisoners, eliminating Truth in Sentencing in Michigan. HB 4670 - 4673 would amend the corrections code, the criminal procedure code, and the Crime Victims' Rights Act. These bills would allow offenders to be eligible to receive productivity credits if they were not convicted of homicide, criminal sexual conduct, or human trafficking. Productivity credits are earned by either enrollment or completion of educational or vocational MDOC programs and then used to reduce an inmate's minimum and maximum sentence thus making them eligible for early parole. Truth in Sentencing requires that a defendant serve their minimum sentence in its entirety which benefits domestic violence and sexual assault victims by providing them with a definite parole date for their offenders.

Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to oppose HB 4670-4673. The motion carried.

Report of the Members - None.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business - None.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2021.

Ms. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Bobbitt