

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – February 24, 2020
MINUTES

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on February 24, 2020 in the Dempsey Conference Room, Grand Tower, 235 South Grand Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Robin Hornbuckle
Brian Mackie

Staff Members:

Jessica Averill, Policy Analyst
Shalonna Banks, S.A.F.E./Comp. Analyst
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Jeanie Cox, Secretary
Emily Ely, Compensation Analyst
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Angie Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Comp Program Manager

Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General

Public Comment – None.

Reading and Approval of Minutes – Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray-Sheffield, to waive the reading of the minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting and approve as written with one edit. The motion carried.

Staff Report – Ms. Cain reported that she and Mr. McCurtis had spoken at the PAAM prosecutor's Meeting in Traverse City on February 19, 2020. The presentation was in reference to the budget and how dollars are to be spent. Mr. Mackie felt the information was well received by the prosecutors.

Ms. Cain stated they would like feedback from the Commissioners regarding staffing in the Victim Services Division. One possible change is to combine the Victim Rights Section with the Compensation Section. Ms. Cain also reported that the structure of PAAM has changed considerably thanks in part to the Victim Services Division training grant. She also mentioned discussions which have been held with PAAM with regard to advocate training.

Mr. McCurtis provided a document to the Commissioners regarding the change of the main phone line for Crime Victim Services. With a new computer system being developed for Compensation, he stated it is hoped that all changes could be made together (new phone number and new computer system). Ms. Cain stated that Jordan Kennedy is the PR liaison for the division, and Ms. Kennedy will be working with the Communications Section of MDHHS on developing a logo and colors among other things. Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle, to request a one-year extension for the phone number (517-373-7373). Motion passed.

Ms. Cain thanked the Commissioners for taking on the extra tasks over the past year. Their assistance is very beneficial.

Ms. Povilaitis reported provided an Executive Summary on a bill that has been proposed in the Senate. This matter was brought before the Commission because it involves Victim Rights Funding. The bill's recommendation is for an expense which does not deal with physical injury, rather a property expense. Ms. Povilaitis stated should this bill pass, it would be detrimental to the fund. Much discussion followed. Mr. Mackie asked if other states pay for this expense. Ms. Washburn will research this question. Ms. Cain stated that the Commissioners may be asked to testify in hearings against this bill. Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, for the Commission to go on record as opposing this bill. The motion carried.

Report of the Members – Mr. Mackie reminded everyone that the Victim's Candlelight Vigil is to be held on April 15, 2020 at the Capitol.

Mr. Mackie provided a rough draft of a subpoena for review. Discussion followed.

Dr. Fales inquired about training of the new Navigator positions. Mr. McCurtis stated there are currently four navigator positions and there has been a webinar to assist them. Also, Ms. Banks stated the Navigators have been instructed to contact Ms. Washburn and/or herself for technical assistance. Dr. Fales suggested that monthly contact be scheduled with the Navigators to work on issues that may arise for them. Mr. McCurtis stated he feels it is a great learning experience and is glad this is a pilot project.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –
A. Appeals – None.


The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2020.

The Commission moved into the appeals portion of the meeting.

Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian Mackie, Chairperson

Witnessed: 
Date: 07/22/2020

Evidentiary Hearings:

None scheduled.