

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – June 25, 2020
MINUTES

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on June 25, 2020 on a remote Zoom virtual meeting.

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
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Compensation Analyst
Jordan Kennedy, Outreach and Education Project Coordinator
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Angie Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager
Aaron Levin, Assistant Attorney General

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 June 25, 2020 agenda.

Reading and Approval of Minutes – Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle, to waive the reading of the minutes from the February 24, 2020 meeting and approve as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment – None.

Staff Report – Ms. Cain reported that Ms. Gray-Sheffield and her Open Arms program were recently highlighted on the Channel 7 News. Ms. Grey-Sheffield said she is excited to continue to do the work of helping domestic violence victims in the midst of the COVID pandemic. She said people are reaching out to help. D. Cain said she appreciates the great work they do.

Ms. Cain thanked staff members Ms. Rogers, Ms. Povilaitis and Ms. Averill for setting up the Zoom meeting subscription to hold the Commission meeting remotely. Ms. Cain said Jeanie Cox recently retired and Mr. Bobbitt is filling in until a replacement is found. She said working remotely is complicated for staff, but they are doing a great job.

Ms. Cain also thanked Mr. McCurtis and Ms. Hogan for working on grants and getting contracts in place for the victim advocates and prosecutor's office statewide. Mr. McCurtis said they are overseeing a total of 87 grants, 82 of which are from the county prosecutors and 5 others from other organizations, such as the Sherriff's Association.

The Division of Victim Services is currently working with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to look at crime victim data in Michigan. Within the next six months, that data will be provided to help decide how to spend Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant dollars.

Report of the Members – Dr. Fales mentioned that Pine Rest, a private, non-profit mental health facility located in western Michigan, produced an evidenced based report on the mental health consequences associated with past pandemics. The report projected a possible second wave of mental health issues associated with the COVID pandemic. He offered to send a copy of the report to all the Commissioners.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –

A. Appeals – None.

Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle, to go into a closed session for the appeals portion of the meeting. The motion carried.

Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield, to cancel the July 20, 2020 Commission meeting. The motion passed.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2020.

Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.