**CVRA BOARD MEETING**

Anchor Location

350 E 500 S Ste 200

Salt Lake City, Utah

Virtual Meeting

September 13, 2022

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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| Brooks Keeshin, MD\* |  Dallas Fawson\* |  Connie Wettlaufer |
| Anna Lieber |  Tisha Littlewood\* |  Madi Radcliff  |
| Steve O’Camb |  Tasso Moss\* |  Vickie Bushman\* |
| Troy Rawlings\* |  Christina Perry\* |  Rachelle Hill\* |
| Julee Smith |  Tammy Talbot\* |  Tallie Viteri\* |
| Vickie Walker |  Lupe Gutierrez |  Ken Matthews\* |
| Jeanetta Williams |  Rose Gomez |  |
| Gary Scheller |  Jennifer Windley\* |  |
| Melanie Scarlet\* |  Susana Fragoso\* |  |
| Lana Taylor, AG’s Office\* |  Mark Petersen |  |

 \*Joined Meeting Virtually

Dr. Keeshin convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Gary introduced Mark Petersen – Federal Funds Financial Manager.

1. Approval of the May 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes Brooks Keeshin

**A motion was made by Julee Smith, seconded by Anna Leiber, to approve the May 18, 2022 minutes as written. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.**

2.Subrogation Claim 1073273 Gary Scheller

UOVC received a request from the claimant for a full waiver of UOVC’s lien on this claim. Gary presented the information contained on the summary handout prepared by Shamrae Anderson. UOVC has paid out $25,942.01 to date. The remaining funds available could be used for future medical claims up to a maximum of $50,000. UOVC staff recommendation is a full waiver. **After review of the information provided, a motion was made by Steve O’Camb, seconded by Julee Smith, to approve the request for a full waiver**. The Chair asked if there were any further comments. There was a lengthy discussion on restitution related to the claim. **An amended motion was made by Anna Lieber to approve a full waiver on the current and future claims regarding this case, contingent on it not impacting restitution, at which time it should be brought before the Board. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

3. Advocacy Center Update Rose Gomez

Rose gave a brief updated report detailed in a handout that was provided. She talked about the Enhancement Program started in 2021 that allows the Advocacy Center to utilize funds to provide emergency assistance for crime related expenditures to clients. Rose said they are spending the funds more quickly now than when the program started. The biggest expense is housing. It is a powerful way they can provide services to victims. They work hard to try to figure out which of the victim advocacy programs available would work best for the requests received. There are funds available statewide so the focus with the advocate programs looks to be providing housing and food.

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4. Strategic Planning Task Force Summary Vickie Bushman

Vickie reported that the first Strategic Planning Task Force meeting went very well. There were 30 attendees at today’s meeting. They did an overview of UOVC, UDVC, and UCASA’s role in the process and discussed ways they could collaborate with the coalitions. She discussed the information on the summary handout and then the task force meeting was opened for discussion. Vickie said it was exciting to see people already participating in discussions and wanting to participate in projects to work toward improving victim services in Utah. They talked about the need for training and getting all those entities that provide training together to discuss how the training could be consistent for all advocates in the State.

5. Financial Update Gary Scheller

Gary gave a report on the revenue/expenditures for FY22 provided on the updated financial document provided as a handout to the Board. FY22 totals were higher than FY21 but significantly ahead of FY20. The Trust Fund total is around 8 million dollars but will be impacted by the recent administrative rule changes increasing the maximum benefits on certain benefit types such as funeral expenses. Total benefits paid is still lower than in previous fiscal years but could still be the outcome of the COVID. He explained that the 3.7 million dollars listed in FY 2022 should have been combined with the administrative budget. This would show the actual general fund revenue to be around 6.8 million dollars. He discussed in detail several of the expenditure types. Reviewing the history of the program over the years, Gary said UOVC, based on population, tends to have more applications in the compensation program and spends more for reparation benefits than a lot of the larger states in the nation. Steve asked a question about inmate withholding being a low amount. Gary said we would check with the Department of Corrections.

6. Building Block Request Restitution Department Growth Gary Scheller

Gary reported that UOVC will be asking to have three positions funded this year. To do this the office is required to build a business case for each request to present to the Executive Director at CCJJ for consideration in the Governor’s budget. One of the positions is for the assistance grant program to fund Rachelle Hill’s training component of the victim services programs that receive federal money and the second is to fund Vickie Bushman’s State Victim Liaison Project grant as the grant for that program will end next October. The Reparations Program will be asking for another position for the Restitution Unit. Lana said a bill passed in 2021 that mandated that if restitution is not ordered at sentencing the courts are required to set a restitution hearing. Lana said that right before the statute changed in 2021, the restitution staff covered 114 hearings. In FY22, that number increased to 301 hearings. This is good for the collection of restitution, but the unit really needs more staff. Lana said that all restitution hearings will once again be in person starting on November 1, which makes it more difficult to cover the hearings that occur in places throughout the state.

7. Overview Assistance Grants Funding Gary Scheller

The VOCA assistance grant awards went from 4.5 million dollars to a high of 32 million dollars in the past years. The awards are down to 16 million and could be 10 million next. The hope is that Congress can find a way to increase the money in the Federal fund so the awards balance out somewhere around 10 to 12 million dollars a year to share across the state. The assistance program lost 50% of the funds that they had to work with for the next grant cycles. Tallie reported that the grant team will not be presenting any grants for approval at the December Board meeting. The VAWA and SASP grants normally presented in December are being moved from a calendar year schedule to a fiscal year schedule. Tallie said the grant team plans to offer an extension of six months to VAWA and SASP grantees that have a current grant award. Then, in January, they will open an RFP for all the grants at the same time.

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8. Victims Services “Consolidation/Coordination” Efforts Gary Scheller

 and Activity

1. Origin Draft Legislation to Consolidate
2. Intent Language Reports June and October
3. Current Status: Core Services, Costs, Appropriation Requests
4. Sexual Assault Initiatives UOVC Support of Coalitions Services Standards
5. Legislative Concept Victim Services Coordination Commission

Gary provided a very detailed report on the idea of consolidation/coordination efforts and activity to date. In 2018, HB177, a trauma informed initiative, required that agencies look through the system to see where and how to best infuse the trauma informed approach into victim services and other agencies, such as corrections and work force services. There were some really good ideas that were not quite finished. At that time, Representative Ivory left the Legislature. Then, about a year before last, a member of the Legislature put a draft bill (HB 490) together that kind of took any entity that had the word victim in the name or mission and put them into one agency. The director was going to be a member of the Governor’s cabinet and it was going to solve all the problems with victim services in the state. The bill was presented late in the session and was not passed. Representative Ivory is interested in establishing a system that provides a consistent standard of care to all victims across the state no matter where the victimization occurred. Several initiatives, as well as Vickie’s program, began to look for ways to best coordinate victim services to provide victim services in a uniform manner that would be provided by the State and not just Federal grant funds. Representative Ivory requested the Social Services Appropriations Committee and the Executive Offices Criminal Justice Sub-committee provide a rundown of how victims services are provided and for the committees to make recommendations on how to provide the services in the manner advocates across the State could get to the point of providing a consistent standard of care that everyone was working toward all working together whether it be a government or non-profit agency. At that point, we began to work together with other state agencies to look at all the different layers of funding that go into all the advocate agencies in the state. Gary said there have been endless meetings and he is happy to have all parties at the same table trying to work this out. The most recent development is an idea for another commission that may be proposed. Representative Ivory, Gary, Tallie and others are closely following this new suggestion. He said that as taxing as it has been in the past month or so, it has been a positive time, and hands down, he has never seen a better, more collaborative relationship with other coalitions such as the Domestic Violence Coalition. The Board will be informed of details on the progress moving forward.

9. Next Meeting December 13, 2022.

10. **A motion was made by Anna Lieber, seconded by Steve O’Camb, to adjourn the meeting.**