

# VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

## June 18, 2024

**Attendance:** Shanquenetta Anderson, Wendy Ayala, Neda Balourian, Brian Koosed, Kathryn Pontzer, Jasmin Whitfield, Leah Schwartz, Alan Schulman.

**Members Absent:** Larry Center, Heather Thompson.

**Ex-Office Members Absent:** Ellen Alexander

**Support Staff:** Dana Bell, Carla Bradley.

### I. Additions to Agenda

No additions to Agenda.

### II. Roll Call & Virtual Meeting Procedures– Nada

- The chair called the roll to establish a quorum.

### III. Approval of Minutes from May Meetings– Brian

- The April 25, 2024, Minutes were approved.
- Motion –Neda, Second Alan.

### IV. Executive Subcommittee Update– Brian

- Christine Hong (Chief, of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness), provided dates for a follow up meeting on the Bridge Housing.
- The board would like to hear the true testimony of an anonymous victim of Trauma Services.
  - a. **Update on CJCC or other Meetings – Kathryn, Neda, others**
    - Shan attended the Wheaton Art and Culture Center hosted by Fanny Gonzalez.
    - June 20<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting at the Wheaton Library and Recreational Center about Bridge Housing hosted by Natalie Annie Gonzalez.

### V. Legislative Subcommittee Update– Kathryn

- None.
- Kathryn reminded board members that starting in September or August it would be ideal to transition who will be responsible for the legislative subcommittee.
- There are four bills that need to be worked on this new fiscal year.

### VI. Update on Vacancies and Nominations for New Chair Elections– Brian/Neda

- There are 23 positions available at VSAB.
- The Board members interviewed five potential candidates for VSAB membership.
- Dana updated that they are five more candidate requests for interviews.
- Brian, Neda and Leah are the ones running the interviews as the Nominations Committee.
- A nomination was made for the new chair and cochair to replace Brian and Neda.
- **Shan** was nominated as co-chair starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Motion – Brian, Second- Kathryn and Leah; the board unanimously agree.
- **Wendy** was nominated as a co-chair starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Motion – Brian, Second Leah; the board unanimously agree.

### VII. Annual Report – Brian/Neda

- They will have feedback from Sali, MCasa and JCADA middle of July.
- The annual report is expected to be finalized in September/October and published in December.
- The board will work with the service provider to complete its tasks.

### VIII. Public Affairs/Events Subcommittee updates– Leah

- June 19<sup>th</sup> is Juneteenth.

- June 19<sup>th</sup> is the day of the International Counter Hate Speech Day.
- Connect for resources.

**XI. Announcements/Comments/New Business**

- New interview for the month
- June 26, Montgomery County is hosting a meeting about drones as a first responder program.

**Next Meeting:  
July 25, 2024, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Virtual)**