

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board

November 9, 2020
Regular Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST

Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Members/proxies present: Heather Wagers, Damien Sweeney, Christa Bell, Yvette Smith, Todd Kidd, Dr. Vinod Rao, Dr. Traci Bouchard, Claudette Patton, LeAnna Homandberg. OAG staff present: Stacy Woodrum, Cathy York and Theresa Gargan
- III. Review and approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 9, 2020.
 - a. LeAnna Homandberg moved to approve the minutes.
 - b. Christa Bell seconded the motion to approve.
 - c. The motion to approve carried unanimously.
- IV. Committee Reports & Assignments
 - i. Finance and Grants Management
 1. **Financial Report of the Child Victims Trust Fund**

Stacy Woodrum stated that for FY21 for the CVTF (account number 6305), which includes donations and the license plate fund, had a carry forward balance of \$1,068,410.51. As of the end of October, the OAG received YTD \$13,484.00 in the CVTF, \$8,285.00 for license plate and 102.44 in interest income with total receipts of \$21,871.44 for a total of \$1,090,281.95 with zero expended from that fund. Total expended \$47,868.21 with a remaining fund cash balance of \$1,259.88. Stacy referred board members to documents circulated by email to the board.

In discussing expenditures, Heather Wagers gave the board additional information about some of the items listed. The reimbursement from Lake Cumberland Child Development was due to the Lake Cumberland Child Advocacy Center incorrectly registering with state government under the wrong agency identification number. Therefore, all payments that the CAC should have received last year went to the Child Development Center. This was caught at the end of the year and Ms. Wagers contacted the parties involved to address the issue. Additionally, the amount listed as a reimbursement of \$301.63 to her was money expended in her travels to conduct site visits and audits.

In reference to the money paid to Stuart Bassman, Heather Wagers reminded board members that they had approved this

expenditure at the May Board meeting. However, the judge in that case did not allow Mr. Bassman's expert testimony. The Special Prosecution Unit was able to secure a ten-year plea deal from the defendant.

Stacy Woodrum stated that all reimbursement now go through a 4-pronged approach before being paid. Yvette Smith asked if this is the account where the expenditures for the allotment will be made. Stacy Woodrum stated that was correct and that the current allotment is \$350,000.00. Heather Wagers referred Board members to an email disseminated which show revenue, interest income and donations received over the life of the Child Victims' Trust Fund.

2. **FY19-20 Grantee Site Visit Update**

Heather Wagers reminded board members that due to COVID, site visits and audits were conducted later this year than normal. There were nineteen grantees to visit and discuss grant deliverables with. Several of the grantees referenced that the procedure for the grant review was different compared to previous audits. Previously, the Grantees advised that they selected what files were reviewed, only two or three medical files were pulled for review, and the audits were briefer in time. As there was no policy established for how the audits were to be conducted, our office developed its own format. At each of the CACs, more than 50% of the medical files were pulled to be compared against the invoices submitted by the CAC. Personnel records were reviewed to determine if background checks had been performed within the last two years. Additionally, Heather met with each of the grantees about the issues they face in their area in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse.

Heather Wagers provided a summary of the visits. The majority of grantees did not have any deficiencies. Those grantees include:

- Northern Kentucky CAC
- Gateway
- Silverleaf
- Buffalo Trace
- Families and Children's Place
- Barren River
- Green River
- Lotus
- Pennyrile
- Kentucky River

A few of the CACs were not in compliance due to outdated background checks.

- Judi's Place had 1 personnel background check out of compliance, but they cured that the next day.
- CAC of the Bluegrass has an employee who is ill, and had not had a chance to submit the background checks. They stated it will be completed this month.
- Lake Cumberland had a background check that needed signature before submission which had been difficult to obtain during this pandemic. This has since been submitted.
- Cumberland Valley showed where they had background checks submitted to the Cabinet in February, but had not received the results back yet.

All of the grantees were very thankful for the support of their efforts and programs.

3. **Update on Families and Children's Place Repayment Plan**- Cathy York stated that she has reached out to Families and Children's Place for a time to meet to discuss getting a repayment plan for their outstanding balance of \$22,390. The CAC had been paying back the balance through reduced reimbursement of medical exams, yet that is only \$20 per exam. Ms. York hopes to meet with them in November. She will provide the meeting date for anyone on the Board who would like to attend the meeting.

ii. Operations and Legislative

1. **Strategic Plan Discussions**

LeAnna Homandberg stated that she along with input from Heather Wagers created the strategic plan with action steps and provided that to the Board members.

First goal: increase public and professional awareness and understanding of the nature and scope of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Dr. Bouchard stated that from a physician's standpoint she would speak to the Kentucky Medical Licensure Board to see if they could provide information about the Board in their email blasts to increase awareness.

Second goal: fund quality services and innovative programs.

Third goal: have greater influence on public policy relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Heather Wagers added that every site visit she went to she asked the grantee what they would change about the law

if they could. She will draft up a list of her notes and circulate that information to the Board.

Yvette Smith suggested we look at other states to see what public policy we might incorporate in our state.

Heather Wagers stated that she has reached out to the NCSL, which is a group of national legislators that look at policy all over the country and has asked for an overview. While some of the policy reviews were done last in 2014, it is a starting point for the Board.

Fourth goal: increase the effectiveness of the Board.

Fifth goal: ensure continued growth and viability of the Child Victim's Trust Fund.

2. **Bylaws discussion**

OAG employee Cathy York stated that all of the changes to the bylaws were in Article 7. Ms. York verbally went over the changes proposed. Ms. Wagers stated that several of these proposed changes were in recommendations from the State Auditor of Public Account's Office. The bylaws will be voted on during the next meeting.

3. **FY 21-22 Grant Applications**

Grant application documents were ready for review by the Board. The Board discussed the amount of reimbursement paid to the CACs to conduct the sexual assault exam. The current rate is \$75 per exam. However, the CACs have expressed the growing cost of the exam. The average (direct and indirect cost) for a medical exam is over \$2,100 per information submitted by Caroline Ruschell. Ms. Wagers asked the board members to consider the amount they would like to reimburse CACs for next grant period as they would vote on the grant application documents at the next board meeting.

iii. **Research/Development and Training**

1. **Stark Symposium** –Dr. Traci Bouchard stated that the goal was whether to create new programs for awareness and prevention or get the word out for good existing programs. That is still being decided as a Board. One great opportunity is the Stark Symposium that will train all MDT participants on ways to combat technology facilitated acts of child sexual abuse. This training will be available in Kentucky in June of 2021. Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Program is another great evidenced-based educational program.

2. **Giving Tuesday-** Heather Wagers stated that the Attorney General was going to promote the Child Victims' Trust Fund for this year's Giving Tuesday social media campaign. She asked that every Board member promote this on their social media accounts. Ms. Wagers made it clear that she did not want to compete with CVTF grantees for funds, but wanted to use the opportunity to raise awareness about the fund and the programs it supports.
3. **KECC update-** Cathy York stated that she has done some research on this per the request by the Board. To be eligible, several things must occur before they can submit an application. The amended bylaws include one of those changes by including a non-discrimination clause. Additionally, the Board will need to produce an annual report.

Yvette Smith stated that the Board attempted several years ago to get on the KECC list, but ran into a problem because the Board was not a 501C3. Cathy York stated that she thought the Board had a tax-exempt status, but in case we do not she has asked the personnel cabinet if our enabling statute will cover that.

V. **New Business**

- a. **CAC Multidisciplinary Enhanced Approach Update-**Caroline Ruschell was unable to present at this meeting, but that we hoped she would be able to join us at the next meeting.
- b. **Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy Center FY 20-21 Grant Amendment Request-** They have requested that part of their match be shifted to a different source. Additionally, they wanted to change the name of their program, but the content of the materials would be the same. LeAnna Homandberg made a motion to approve Child Watch Counseling & Advocacy Center FY 20-21 Grant Amendment Request. Dr. Traci Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Warrior Conference Application from Phoenix Rising Inc.-** A request was made to sponsor the training that was held October 10, 2020. Because this was submitted after the event, the board members discussed that they would have liked to have seen promotions and references to the CVTF if they were going to ask for funding. The request was to utilize CVTF money for the purchase of t-shirts, duffle bags, contents of duffle bags, dinner for speakers, and treats for in-person attendees. LeAnna Homandberg asked if the materials were disseminated since the conference was held virtually. No information regarding this was submitted with the conference sponsorship application. Heather Wagers stated that because the Board did not have the information to answer their questions, she was making a motion to deny the application for funding of the Warrior Conference and encourage the organization to apply for future

opportunities. Yvette Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- VI. Partner Updates & Announcements-Heather Wagers stated that we have done an inventory of all of the CVTF promotional items, so that the Board can gauge when to purchase additional items. She had been researching promotional material and would love to see the Board do something associated with a therapy dog, like a stuffed animal. She would continue to research and update the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Additionally, she wanted to bring attention to the Board that the current website they utilize costs \$390/month. Based on the analytics, the website does not receive a lot of interactions. Claudette Patton stated that our site should be coming up when someone types the phrase "child abuse" in the search feature. Currently, it does not. Dr. Traci Bouchard made a motion that this should be further reviewed and discussed by the board. LeAnna Homandberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Heather Wagers stated that she would like to call a special meeting in December. The Board agreed to hold this meeting on December 9th at 9 am.

- VII. Adjourn- Motion to adjourn was made by LeAnna Homandberg. The motion was seconded by Christa Bell. Motion passed unanimously.