

Administrative Meeting of the  
Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC) Minutes  
Thursday, May 6, 2021  
1164 Bishop Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

Present: Commissioners: Chair Martha Ross and Commissioner Sandra Joy Eastlack  
Staff: Executive Director Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Administrative Assistant  
Joy Takatsuka, Project Coordinator Randi Barretto, Post Conviction  
Advocate Dawn Martin, JRI Restitution Project Coordinator  
Amanda Sawa

Commissioner Clifton Choy excused

Agenda
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The Administrative Meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m. by Commission Chair Martha Ross.

I. Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the February 4, 2021, meeting were moved for approval by Sandra Joy Eastlack. The minutes were approved.

II. National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2021

National Crime Victims' Rights Week was April 18-24, 2021. The Commission received a Grant to fund events. In Hawai'i, event was held April 19-23, 2021. Kickoff on April 19, 2021, where Governor Ige did a Proclamation that declared April 18-24, 2021, National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Hawai'i. Statewide representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Hawai'i Paroling Authority and the Crime Victim Compensation Commission participated and spoke about victims' rights and services in Hawaii and introduced the unique collaboration between the three agencies to provide seamless continuum of victim advocacy services. Events included a candlelight vigil with candles distributed by community victim service agencies. The vigil included music and stories from two different survivors. There were about 35 participants via Zoom on the website that was developed for the event. The website also included national resources, a victim wish board where people could virtually ask for a wish or statement for a survivor that they knew, and short (@ 5 minutes) brown bag informational sessions from about 15 local victim service providers about their services. Certificates and thank you letters were sent to all service participants and the Governor. In order to promote the event, bus posters were created and posted for about two weeks prior. The website is still available at [www.PAVHawaii.com](http://www.PAVHawaii.com) for about another week.

III. CVCC-HPA Crime Victim Advocacy Project:

The Post Conviction Advocate provided updates about this project. The Advocate has been providing program orientation sessions for the Hawai'i Paroling Authority supervisors. All those who participated appear excited about the program and are interested in learning more about services for victims. The Advocate has also been providing orientations to advocates at all four County Victim Witness Programs.

The Advocate has been providing direct services to victims since February 2021. On March 3, 2021, a mailer was sent to 100 victims introducing the program.

Referrals have been coming in from criminal justice victim service providers, self referrals, and victims who received the mailers. Victims have stated that they are feeling validated and happy that someone finally is hearing their story and they are also very interested in services.

In the process of developing a criminal justice map that outlines different parts of the criminal justice system and who provides services at each point and include the relevant statutes at each point. Met with County Victim Witness Advocates in all four Counties and RAVS to get information about different services and what may be missing. Once complete, the map will provide information to crime victims as well as those within the system about what everyone does and services at each point as well as provide a guideline for where there may be gaps in services to address.

Recorded first podcast episode. First episode introduces the Post Conviction Victim Advocacy Program. The second podcast will be an interview with the Honolulu Police Department Sex Crimes Unit. Moving forward, goal is 3 podcasts per month. Advocate also put out a YouTube video about the program.

Submitted a budget modification to funders on March 1, 2021, to revise budget to include two consultants and a contract to develop a program website. Waiting for approval.

Submitted grant request to the Attorney General's Office, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, to continue funding the project beyond June 30, 2022, which is when current funding ends.

#### IV. Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Update:

##### A. Restitution Project

Still continuing to receive a steady stream of collection of restitution. Overall collection through the end of March 2021 was \$4.33 million. Collection for the first quarter of 2021 was over \$122,000 which is consistent with collections for the first quarters of the previous two years. Of note, money from inmates included deductions from stimulus payments they may have received.

PSD Facilities are all current with remittances thanks to the staff on the RAVS team who are diligently monitoring and working with the facility staff. Collections from the Facilities are already higher for the fiscal year than in the past.

Furlough programs are mostly on hold so collections are close to \$0.

Parole continues to collect restitution but collections are down from pre-COVID.

Currently in the middle of the annual payout to victims.

The Executive Director and JRI Restitution Project Coordinator are doing presentations on restitution collection at the Association of Paroling Authorities International Conference and the National Crime Victims Center Conference. Have submitted presentation proposals to the American

Probation and Parole Association Conference and the Crime Victim Assistance and Compensation Boards Conference.

B. Victim Services Project

The Victim Services group has been working on the CVCC-HPA Crime Victim Advocacy Project. The group had a contest to name the podcast. Winner was: Hear Me: The Post Conviction Assistance for Victims in Hawai'i Podcast.

PSD-RAVS Project:

Working on revising the MOA with PSD to unify the victim services group within the Commission. Staff will be moved over into the Commission offices, hopefully, by the end of the fiscal year.

SAVIN Project:

Working to develop a strong draft for the next RFP for the SAVIN system.

Reviewing procedures for SAVIN compensation collections to ensure program viability.

V. Mass Casualty Update/Statewide Response to Mass Violence for Victim Services:

Because there are new Prosecuting Attorneys, working on getting the MOA for mutual aid re-signed with no changes to the language.

The Commission received an additional 40 hours of consultation and technical assistance from OVC TTAC for additional advanced response training, table top exercises, and training for mental health providers.

Mass violence victim response group meetings have been moved from monthly to bi-monthly. Each county has created a response team to work on their own plans. Meetings still virtual.

Participating in weekly State of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency ESF 6 meetings to ensure that victim services are included as part of the response for mass casualty incidents.

VI. 2021 Legislative Session:

The Project Coordinator who is also the SAVIN Governance Committee Chair provided legislative testimony for SB 1188 (Relating to the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System) and HB 1297, HB 1298, & HB 1299 all Relating to State Funds with respect to SAVIN funding.

The Commission was very focused on funding because of the drop in compensation fee collections by the Judiciary over the past couple of years together with the effect of court closures due to COVID put the Commission in a position where, without assistance, the Commission would be forced to shut down. The Commission received great support from the Department and community partners. In the end, the legislature provided funding to keep the Commission operational.

Two bills that affected the Commission's funding died early in the session. One bill was to transfer all the money out of the Commission's special fund. The other bill was to remove the funds and eliminate the statutory authority to have a special fund.

VII. COVID-19 Commission Response: No additional information.

VIII. Executive Session Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §92-4 and §92-5:

The Commissioners did not move into Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.