

Administrative Meeting of the
Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC) Minutes
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
1164 Bishop Street, 1st Floor Conference Room
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Present: Commissioners: Mari McCaig Bellinger (Chair), Jo Kamae Byrne, and Clifton Y.S. Choy

Staff: Executive Director Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Amanda Sawa (Restitution), Tani Dydasco (VOCA/RAVS), Leanna Bair (Mass Violence Project), Alysha Nagamine (Mass Violence Project)

Agenda

Appeal Hearings were held prior to the Administrative Meeting. Appeal Hearings are closed to the public due to confidentiality.

The Administrative Meeting was called to order at 3:24 p.m. by Commission Chair, Mari McCaig Bellinger.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the June 28, 2022, and November 15, 2022, were circulated. Approval of the minutes was postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

II. Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Restitution Update:

A. Overall Restitution Collections

As of February 2023 (with start of recording date of July 1, 2012), overall restitution collected from inmates and parolees totaled \$5.14 million.

The fiscal year total of overall restitution collections through February 2023 shows an almost 68% increase compared to the same 8-month time period for fiscal year 2022.

- July 2021 – February 2022 = \$232,215.90
- July 2022- February 2023 = \$389,215.58

Numbers may have been down due to COVID as inmates were not able to do furlough work due to some sites shutting down.

In addition, Saguaro Correctional Facility was able to catch up on restitution payments that they had fallen behind on in the past.

Data reports for restitution collections through the end of fiscal year 2023 are currently being updated and should be available by the next Commission Meeting.

B. PSD Inmate Collections

The amount of statutory restitution deductions remitted to the Commission from inmate accounts increased by 37% from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023 for the same 8- month time period:

- July 2021 – February 2022 = \$113,247.41
- July 2022- February 2023 = \$155,285.89

The increase was due in part to significant efforts by PSD's Mainland Branch to get current on collections and remittances from inmates housed at Saguaro Correctional Facility.

Several PSD correctional facilities are experiencing ongoing staffing challenges due to vacancies or staff being on leave. This is of concern as in some locations, short staffing has affected PSD's ability to process timely restitution payments to the Commission and to update payments of court-ordered restitution to crime victims. PSD-RAVS and the Commission are continuing to work closely with the correctional facilities to address this issue.

PSD-RAVS staff recently identified an issue with PSD inmate deductions due to a new GTL Kiosk system which allows people to deposit money to inmate accounts online. The software interface that transfers funds to inmate accounts does not currently address the requested restitution deductions, and therefore some mandatory collections are not being processed. This issue has been brought to the attention of corrections leadership at PSD, who are now working to address this issue.

The Commission recently reviewed restitutions collections from inmates on work furlough across the state. While many furlough inmates continue to make their required payments, the Commission identified a number who are not actively paying. These inmates were identified to their respective case managers or furlough supervisors so that collections may begin. Furlough locations have reported to CVCC that they are also being hampered by short-staffing at this time. The Commission's Restitution Program is working with case managers to address these issues.

C. Parole Collections

The fiscal year total of parole collections through February 2023 shows a slight decrease by 8% compared to the same 8-month time period for fiscal year 2022.

- July 2021 – February 2022 = \$78,180.48
- July 2022- February 2023 = \$72,069.37

The Commission shared the information with the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

D. Other Updates

The Restitution Program recently completed the 2023 annual victim payout in which 1,080 restitution payments were distributed to crime victims/payees from Hawai'i inmates and parolees.

The Commission's Executive Director and JRI Restitution Accountability Project Coordinator were invited to provide virtual presentations about restitution management in Hawai'i to the following groups:

- 5/4/23 State of Maryland JRI Restitution Workgroup
- 7/13/23 Council of State Governments Restitution Resource Center Peer Learning Community – People from across the country who are involved with restitution collections

III. SAVIN Update:

A. Strategic Plan Implementation and Response to Gaps in Service

Currently, the SAVIN coordination office includes two (2) programs: SAVIN and RAVS. The SAVIN Program includes four (4) newly created positions:

- (1) SAVIN Coordinator – Corrections Program Specialist II
- (2) Corrections Program Specialist I (SAVIN advocates)
- (1) Office assistant – staff hired and approved, start date October 2023

B. SAVIN Contract with APPRISS Insights/Equifax

SAVIN's contract with APPRISS (now Equifax), expired April 30, 2023. Currently finalizing documents for supplemental extension for one year and submitting final documents for execution.

C. Other SAVIN Program Highlights

Current SAVIN Program highlights include:

- Above mentioned new positions established
- Fiscal year 2024 beginning advertisements for SAVIN
- Continuing collaboration with the Commission
- Adding content to PAVS joint project webpage
- Continuing to expand Post-Conviction Services Program with RAVS

IV. Mass Violence Project Update:

A. Behavioral Health Response to Mass Violence Incidents (BHRMVI) Training: 2/13/2023-2/14/2023, O‘ahu; 2/16/2023-2/17/2023, Hawai‘i Island

The Commission planned, organized, and conducted a two-day statewide training held in February 2023 on the islands of O‘ahu and Hawai‘i for the behavioral health, victim service providers, first responder and emergency management communities. The Commission worked with the *National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center* (NMVVRC) to present a training on the following Mass Violence Incident (MVI) topics:

- Recognizing Mass Violence Incidents;
- Understanding Trauma;
- Psychological First Aid and Communication & Assessments;
- Resilience Strategies;
- Best Practices for Trauma Related Mental Health Response; and
- Core Components of Death Notification

The training provided participants an opportunity to engage with other agencies, enhance partnerships, and develop plans that helped integrate effective behavioral health preparedness during a mass violence incident.

Evaluations were filled out by attendees and a total of 160 participants attended the O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island trainings. Of the 160 participants, over 90% of the participants were satisfied with the overall quality of the training.

B. Crime Victim Compensation Commission’s MVI Volunteers

The Commission is building a team of victim-centered volunteers to respond with the Commission to an MVI. The Commission circulated a CVCC MVI volunteer sign-up sheet at the GHRMVI training.

CVCC MVI Volunteers may:

- Deploy with the Commission to assist crime victims in response to an MVI,
- Provide emotional support and practical assistance to help victims in the aftermath of an MVI,
- Assist crime victims with completing a Mass Violence Incident Compensation Application, and
- Help assess the long-term needs of victims, surviving family members and witnesses.

C. The Commission’s Mass Violence Incident Response Internal Protocols

In January 2023, the Commission’s MVPT began drafting the Mass Violence Incident Response Internal Protocols. The protocols will serve as a guide for the Commission when responding to an MVI.

The MVPT is currently finalizing the protocols. The protocols will be a living document, to be continuously updated.

D. MVI Partnership(s)

- Mass Violence Planning Workgroup

In 2017, the Commission began hosting quarterly Mass Violence Planning Workgroup meetings to integrate victim services into official state and county plans, define the role of victim service providers during an MVI, and determine how information is disseminated between MVI responders. Over the years, the workgroup has grown to over 60 participants representing federal, state, and county victim services, non-profits, emergency management, police departments, medical examiners, and other departments who would respond during an MVI

- City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Family Assistance Center Discussion

On April 25, 2023, and June 9, 2023, the Commission was invited to participate in the planning efforts through the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to develop a Family Assistance Center (FAC) Appendix. DEM acknowledges the Commission as a critical partner in the FAC operations and continues to collaborate with the Commission and other responding agencies to develop a Mass Violence and Terrorism Incident Annex and a FAC Appendix that introduces an effective framework for an FAC that would support families and victims of an MVI.

- State of Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) – Emergency Support Function (ESF 6)

The Commission worked with HI-EMA to develop language to include victim services in ESF 6. On July 5, 2023, HI-EMA adopted the Commission’s recommendations and integrated the following language in the ESF 6 Annex:

“Incidents of mass violence require specialized response to address the complex and unique needs of victims of violence crime and traumatized communities. Agencies

with specialized training coordinate effective and timely responses by providing information and assistance in conjunction with other support agencies and victim services organizations.”

Hawai‘i is one of only a few states that include victim services in their state’s emergency management response plans (ESF 6).

- Mass Violence Response Plan for Victim Services

In 2019, the Commission and the Office for Victims of Crime’s Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVCTTAC) finalized the *Mass Violence Response Plan for Victim Services*. The plan provides helpful guidance to responding victim service agencies and the Commission’s partners throughout the planning, preparation, and response phases of an MVI. Over the years, and with the progress the Commission has made to integrate victim services into state and county plans, the Commission determined that the plan needs to be updated to align with current federal, state, and local annexes.

The Commission is contracting with Tamarack Management to update the Commission’s *Mass Violence Response Plan for Victim Services* to include the integration of FAC protocols. The update will ensure that the Plan is consistent with DEM and other agency MVI plans.

Tamarack Management will also develop and conduct training for the victim services response team, including Commission staff and volunteers, and county victim assistance advocates that promotes awareness for the Victim Service Functions.

- State of Hawai‘i, Office of Homeland Security (OHS – State Department)

The MVPT is collaborating with OHS to provide additional MVI response training including: Behavioral Health Response to Mass Violence Incidents (Part II) – Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR), and Death Notifications

V. Restitution and Victim Services (VOCA-RAVS) Update:

- A. In December 2022, the Department of Public Safety requested the assistance of the Commission to temporarily assume the role of Project Director for the RAVS project for the remaining part of the FY 2021 project period.

The Commission identified a significant shortfall in the fiscal year 2021 funding and worked to find funding to ____ the shortfall.

As a result of the Commission's efforts, the Department of the Attorney General awarded the project with an additional \$158,000 in FY 2022 VOCA funding to cover the project from October 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

VI. Items to Discuss Next Meeting

A. The Legislative Update/Briefing

The Legislative update was postponed

B. Proposed Change to Hawai'i Administrative Rule 23-605

To be discussed at next meeting. The Commission would like to update its administrative rule requiring an original ink signature on the Commission's applications.

VII. Next Meeting:

To be determined.

VIII. Adjournment:

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:02pm.