

Summaries At-A-Glance: SAVIN Governance Committee (SGC)

Meeting Date	February 9, 2024
ATTENDEES	<p>Members Present: Angelina Mercado, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV); Lynn Matsuoka, Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC); Rosemarie Albano, Honolulu Victim Witness Kokua Services (Hon VWKS); Dayna Miyasaki, Judiciary (JUD); Lisa Sur, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Information Technology Services (DCR-ITS); Chief Arthur Logan, Honolulu Police Dept. (HPD); Todd Raybuck, Kauai Police Dept. (KPD)</p> <p>Designees Present: Tara Benevides, Honolulu Victim Witness Kokua Services (Hon VWKS); Marita Mullen, Maui Victim Witness (Designee for Anita Ahuja) (Maui VW); Storm Poomaihealani, Kauai Victim Witness (Kauai VW); Pamela Ferguson-Brey, (ED – CVCC)</p> <p>Virtually Present: Paul Applegate (Designee for Todd Raybuck), Kauai Police Department (KPD); Hana Denning (Designee for Corey Reincke), Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), Raylani Lupton (Designee for Julie Ebato), Dept. Of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division (AG-CPJAD)</p> <p>Others Present: Tani Dydasco, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, SAVIN Coordinator (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator); Leanna Bair, Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC); Nettie Arias, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Restitution and Victim Services (DCR-RAVS); Dennis Dunn, Community Member; Rosalina Aipopo, Executive Assistant, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR)</p> <p>Members Absent: Toby Wilson (Victim Representative); Corey Reincke, Hawaii Paroling Authority, (HPA); Randi Barretto, Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC-SGC Chair); Rio Amon-Wilkins, Hawaii Police Dept. (Hawaii PD); Rebecca Vogt Like, Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney (Kauai PA); Stephen Frye, Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney (Hawaii PA); Anita Ahuja, Maui Victim Witness (Maui VW); John Pelletier, Maui Police Dept. (MPD); Julie Ebato, Dept. of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division (AG-CPJAD); Karlotta Carvalho, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)</p>
DISCUSSIONS	<p>I. <u>Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The November 1, 2023 meeting minutes have been reviewed by the committee. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey approved the final meeting minutes. <p><u>*SAVIN and Restitution and Victim Services (RAVS) Reorganization</u></p> <p>Status of SAVIN Coordination Office, Restitution and Victim Services (RAVS) Project, and Vacant Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Aipopo (DCR) provided updates on the status of the (5) five civil service positions, (4) SAVIN, (1) RAVS, that are still vacant. Preference will be for applicants with experience. The select certification sets the criteria for the level of staff needed for these positions. The positions will be posted for about a month – with the goal of having everyone on board by June 2024. <p>ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) to have the final meeting minutes posted to the DCR SAVIN Website.

	<p>II. <u>Notification System</u> <i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i> Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DCR) Network Outage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) stated that they need to work on communication and protocols, and there are too many unknown variables during a network outage. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) and Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) are working on new protocols to avoid these problems. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED – CVCC) inquired with Mr. Dunn (Community Member) about the old protocols and he is currently looking for them. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) stated that in all future outages the Committee and Victim Witness units will be notified sooner and with urgency. Ms. Benevides (Hawai'i VWP) stated that Hawai'i Island still sends manual notification requests to Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC). She inquired if there was a mass notification set up. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) explained that VINE representatives confirmed that Hawai'i does not have a mass notification in place for outages. Once protocols are established, they will collect feedback from the Committee. <p>ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) to work on drafting protocols for SAVIN outages and solicit feedback from a sub-committee. Final review of the draft will be presented to the Committee.
	<p>III. <u>APPRISS Contract Updates</u> <i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i> FY 2021 SAVIN Contract Extension/Renewal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) stated that they are approaching the end of their first contract extension and have sent procurement VINE's renewal proposal for the second extension. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) said that working with VINE has been great. Her VINE reps are very responsive, and they communicate regularly.
	<p>IV. <u>Monthly SAVIN Reporting</u> <i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i> Monthly SAVIN Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) went over the monthly SAVIN report graphs and data. She explained that VINE has fixed the issue with the automated searches and skewed data. Ms. Benevides (Hawaii VWP) asked what the reason was for the “big jump” in searches after the fix from April? Was it due to a data issue, marketing, etc.? Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) stated she will follow up with VINE and see if they can also get feedback from other states. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that there should be a section for how people have heard of SAVIN. Ms. Benevides (Hawaii VWP) and Ms. Albano (Hon VWKS) both stated that they encourage crime victims to sign up. Mr. Logan (Chief HPD) stated that they pass out information cards to crime victims that include information about SAVIN. SAVIN and RAVS will be hosting a victims' service training for HPA at the end of April. They are so grateful that Mr. Reinke (HPA) has been on board with this opportunity for victims and HPA. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that Mr. Reinke (HPA) offered to pay for all his people to go to this training conducted by Lydia Newlin (National Consultant) and that the training will be victim focused.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator), Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair), Ms. Arias (RAVS), and Ms. Bair (CVCC) will be attending the National Association of Victim Assistance in Corrections (NAVAC) conference training in March 2024. Notifications have remained steady, with email and text being the most common notifications sent out. <p>ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) to work on follow up with VINE regarding the vinelink search data. She will also have them add a survey question that asks registrants how they heard of SAVIN.
	<p>V. <u>SAVIN and Restitution and Victim Services (RAVS) Reorganization</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <p>Status of SAVIN Coordination Office, Restitution and Victim Services (RAVS) Project, and Vacant Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ms. Aipopo (DCR) provided updates on this topic at the beginning of this meeting. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) stated that there is finally some physical momentum as they are preparing to move into their new office space. As of yesterday (2/8/24), outlets and fiber optics were installed. They are slated to be completely moved in by the following week.
	<p>VI. <u>Legislative Updates</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) said that there are 3 SAVIN bills from last year. HB 2746 would have been the death of the SAVIN program. SAVIN was made with a special fund for victim services. The funds are only to be touched for victim services. Mr. Dunn (Community Member) stated that the main concern is that these bills can come up again. The legislators do not get it and there needs to be as many people as possible to chime in on these issues. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that Tommy Johnson (DCR) is the best advocate we have because he was part of creating SAVIN. Even hiring new people will be hard with no sustainable base or budget cuts. Ms. Ferguson-Brey encourages all Committee members to be constantly vigilant as new bills come out. Ms. Mercado (HSCADV) stated that the ACLU worked with the Worth Rises program. Worth Rises is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to dismantling the prison industry and ending the exploitation. There has been reported talk from the community about reforming the prison system. Victim rights need to be protected and these issues will not go away. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated expungement bills will erase a lot of different offenses. Ms. Mercado (HSCADV) stated HB 1663 and SB 2706 bills didn't take into consideration if defendants aren't currently on trial. Ms. Matsuoka (SATC) stated that it doesn't take into consideration how long trials take. They are trying to carve out certain exceptions and expungements will happen. Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that the bill does not have victims in it and victim's voices need to be heard. HB 1663 has nothing about victims at all. We want to educate our community so we can stand up and draw the line. Mr. Dunn (Community Member) said that we need to get involved in educating our legislators. We don't want to miss certain offenses or expunge dangerous people. Ms. Albano (Hon VWKS) asked, what do we do? Just like victims are scared, we are scared too. We need guidance because this is all new to us. Mrs. Ferguson Brey (ED-CVCC) responded and said that Victim Witness has the stories of victims, something we don't have. They have victims' testimonies. Ms. Matsuoka (SATC) stated that Victim Witness has all the facts about the victim. They know the plea agreements and will know if a case falls into automatic expungement. Registration for sexual assault offenders are only on the list for 7 years. Ms. Benevides (Hawai'i VWP) asked if they should connect with each other and have their testimonies ready when bills come out. Ms.

	<p>Mercado (HSCADV) responded that on a coalition level, they are trying to communicate. She stated, “We need all of you to be connected. Programs want advocacy training and legislators want data. We don’t want victims to be revictimized. We want victims’ testimonies.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Matsuoka (SATC) stated that testimony can be requested within 24 hours. To expedite the process, it would be helpful for supporters to provide notes, templates, and stories to quickly develop testimony. Ms. Benevides (Hawai’i VWP) indicated that they were uncertain how crime victims would feel about this, even if their names are not included. Mr. Dunn (Community Member) stated that this needs to be done in a way that is not revictimizing. There needs to be a systematic way of communicating this message to victims delicately to get them involved. He also stated, “Some of the most powerful testimony is from victims and their families. We need to develop some type of victim forum so we can have ongoing connections with victims so we can be prepared.” Ms. Benevides (Hawai’i VWP) said that on Hawai’i Island there are very passionate advocates. Unfortunately, their ability not to over-share can be a deterrent to the process. Mr. Logan (Chief HPD) asked if they have thought about going to the media. Sometimes the public has no idea these things are going on.
	<p>VII. <u>Other Business</u> <i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i> SGC Membership & Expirations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Ferguson-Brey stated to the group that it is time for reappointments for most of the committee and reminded the group that per statute, the Director of DCR appoints the committee based on a list that the committee provides. A list of nominated members was presented to the committee for review and vote. There being no objections, the vote was unanimous, and the list will be forwarded to the Director for the official appointment letters. <p>ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator) to submit the confirmed member list to the Director for distribution of official letters of appointment.
NEXT MEETING ADJOURNMENT	<p>VIII. <u>Adjournment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.</u> <u>The next meeting is tentatively set for Friday, July 19, 2024 (9:30 am - 11:00 am)</u>