

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

Meeting Date	July 26, 2024
ATTENDEES	<p>Members Present: Angelina Mercado, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ED-HSCADV); Randi Barretto, Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC-SGC Chair); Rio Amon-Wilkins, Hawaii Police Dept. (Hawaii PD); Rosemarie Albano, Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, Victim Witness Kokua Services (Hon VWKS); Tara Benevides, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney - Hawaii Victim Witness Program (Hawaii VWP); Noreen Kishimoto, Judiciary (JUD); Lisa Sur, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Information Technology Services (DCR-ITS); Toby Wilson (Victim Representative); Julie Ebato, Dept. of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division (AG-CPJAD); Lynn Matsuoka, Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC)</p> <p>Designees Present: Marita Mullen and Ana Malafu-Eliesa (Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Maui VW); Storm Poomaihealani (Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kauai VW); Lt. Anthony Morita, Kauai Police Dept. (KPD);</p> <p>Virtually Present: Chief Arthur Logan, Honolulu Police Dept. (HPD)</p> <p>Others Present: Tani Dydasco, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, SAVIN Coordinator (DCR-SAVIN Coordinator)</p> <p>Members Absent: Corey Reincke, Hawaii Paroling Authority, (HPA); John Pelletier, Maui Police Dept. (MPD); Karlotta Carvalho, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); Tommy Johnson, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director (DCR-DIR)</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"> Approval of the February 9, 2024, meeting minutes were approved by Captain Rio Amon-Wilkins (Hawai'i PD) and seconded by Lisa Sur (DCR-ITS). Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that the agenda will start with SGC membership instead of the notification system. <p>II. <u>SGC Membership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) welcomed new members Ana Malafu-Eliesa (Maui VW) and Reid Pursley (Maui PD). Stated that Dana Miyasaki is no longer with the Judiciary and Noreen Kishimoto will be in her place.
	<p>III. <u>Notification System</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <p>Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DCR) Network Outage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated that DCR was affected by the June 13, 2024 downtown power outage. The power came back on at 7 pm that same day and no notifications were missed. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) was able to locate the protocols and procedures that the former SAVIN Coordinator had drafted and followed those procedures during the most recent power outage and during a brief single facility outage that also occurred. Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) asked if there were any updates to the protocols and procedures. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated that certain items were outdated but there were no major changes to the protocols and procedures. There were only changes made to the language. Procedures that stayed the same for example are, if the power outage lasts longer than 8 hours to contact the SAVIN governance committee and the victim witness coordinators.

- Ms. Wilson (Victim Rep.) stated that 4 hours feels long but she is glad that Mr. Dunn (Community Member) is here to shed some light on why those time frames were put in place. Mr. Dunn (Community Member) stated that most of the time frames are based on what is most practical at the time. Sometimes the outages are short, so the times are arbitrary.
- Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that before Rima left, she was going back and forth with ways to shorten response times. VINE will be presenting to the group today and that is something we can bring up to them.
- Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated when the system is down, the facilities are supposed to call status changes in to VINE manually. VINE will then plug that into their system and the notifications will be sent out. But there were glitches in the past, where it was taking too long for notifications to be sent out so that is the time frame that Rima was working on before she left. During this past outage, since it was only one facility, Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) experimented and had the facility call her and she sent out the notifications herself.
- Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that she wanted to clarify that the notifications are being sent out to the SAVIN governance committee, victim witness, and the facilities. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated that the facilities are the first to be notified. She will email and call all the facilities letting them know they need to follow the emergency override protocol. Then the SGC and victim witness is notified later.
- Mr. Dunn (Community Member) asked how quickly the facilities are being notified because the 4-hour time frame was a problem in the past. The 4-hour time period felt significant enough that there could be important notifications that could happen, and people would not be aware of it. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated that if the outage occurs between the hours of 6:00 am and 7:00 pm, and it lasts for more than 4 hours, then the facilities are notified to follow the EOP.
- Mr. Dunn (Community Member) asked if anyone is getting manual notifications anymore? Ms. Benevides (Hawaii VWP) stated that Hawai'i Island is notified by VINE link and for requests sent to HCCC, facilities will call victim witness. Ms. Poomaihealani (Kauai VW) stated that Kauai is notified, and Maui does not get called.
- Ms. Wilson (VR) asked why the time frame is from 6 am - 7 pm and not 24/7. Ms. Dydasco (CVCC-SGC Chair) responded that there is not much happening during that time and the facilities will not release anyone before 6 am. Mr. Dunn (Community Member) recalled that the time frame could also have to do with a lack of staffing.
- Ms. Benevides (Hawaii VWP) stated that even before VINE notifies, escape notices would go out quickly. Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that she remembers that being a problem where the escape notices were going out so quickly that the victims don't know and finding out through these sources, and it causes alert. Ms. Benevides (Hawaii VWP) stated that on Hawai'i Island, the prosecutors or detectives will contact victim witness, then victim witness will contact the victims as soon as they can.
- Ms. Mercado (HSCADV) stated that there should be a live document since the policies and procedures are always changing. Especially with if there is a vendor change, we will have background knowledge which will give us a negotiating standpoint for what we would be looking for in a bid or in contract for a vendor going forward.
- Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) agreed and stated that Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) is currently working on and making sure those documents are in a place where whoever takes on the coordinator position in the future, will have access to them.

ACTION PLAN

- Ms. Dydasco (PSD-SAVIN Coordinator) to look further into the outage protocols with respect to the timelines and escapes and re-evaluate and make necessary changes including adding reasons for such timelines. She will provide any necessary follow up or updates to the committee.

	<p>IV. <u>Monthly SAVIN Reporting</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <p>Monthly SAVIN Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated there were no significant changes in the VINE searches per month, registrations per month, and notifications per month. The SAVIN balance is currently at 1.5 million and the RFP for the new system is due in April and she has been working on that. • Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) asked if there are any big expenses coming up, other than the new positions? Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated that once they are fully staffed, money will be used for marketing and outreach. There will also be a radio campaign put out and she still intends to work on the website.
	<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 and Vacant Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) stated that they are stilling waiting for positions to be filled and it is still just her and Ms. Arias (RAVS). • Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that positions were approved by the Legislature for (2) SAVIN advocates, (1) SAVIN coordinator, and (1) office assistant. Going on 2 years of not being able to hire for those positions due to the government system being slow and the language used to describe the positions were not based on the SAVIN project. The language was updated and 3 people applied for the positions but did not respond to the interview. Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) and Ms. Arias (RAVS) submitted applications for these positions because they are currently not in the civil or permanent positions. DHRD is short staffed, and it has taken them longer to process the applications. DHRD did another round with DCR to announce both the CPS 1, which is the SAVIN advocate and OA IV, which was posted externally with DHRD. The advocate, coordinator, and OA positions have been posted internally as well. We will continue to follow up on the status of those positions. • Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that there is a RAVS position that was created by the Legislature, that was approved on January 1. This is why the funding started on January 1. Mr. Johnson (DCR Director) is going to request an additional position because there were 2 VOCA funded positions doing restitution. This request was made last year but only one was approved so during this next Legislative session, he will be requesting a second. • Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that we are fortunate to have the VOCA funding that is covering the restitution position, that is Ms. Arias (RAVS). • Mrs. Ferguson- Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that the problem is Ms. Dydasco (DCR-SAVIN) and Ms. Arias (RAVS) who work in these positions are exempt, meaning they are not internal and have to be external. This has been our concern all along with how they have not been defining the positions as victim advocates. People who work in the facilities think that there is an equivalency with being a victim advocate and an offender advocate, but it is not the same. • Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that the governance committee before her have mentioned that the position language needs to be corrected. The people who are applying for the positions are not qualified because the positions are described as the DHRD definitions of a corrections program specialist which is very corrections focused. • Ms. Ebato (DAGS) stated that when they are hiring people, they work closely with HR and asked if DCR is working with HR on changing the language. Also, if there is someone who is assigned to work on this issue? • Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) stated that they did provide them with victim centered language and forwarded it over to them so it can be integrated on DHRD. The positions are still under the wrong category and unfortunately the person we have been working with, the

	<p>job gets passed along. The same thing keeps happening and that is how it has been the past 2 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captain Amon-Wilkins (Hawai'i PD) asked if the pay was competitive. Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) said that across the board, pay is an issue. People are applying but once it comes to the interview, they either don't show up or are not qualified because for these positions, a requirement is to have corrections-based testing. This is another reason why it has taken so long, anybody who is a victim advocate may not have that testing and qualifications. • Mr. Dunn (Community Member) asked if the governance committee needs to formally renew these concerns? Mrs. Ferguson- Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that we needed someone here checking in with us and checking in with the department. • Lynn Matsuoka (SATC) asked if we should get the Legislature involved? We don't want to lose our funding. Mrs. Ferguson- Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that we won't lose funding because it is specially funded. • Mr. Dunn (Community Member) requested that the committee be updated in between meetings. <p>ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Barretto (CVCC-SGC Chair) agreed and stated that she will draft a formal letter with all the concerns. <p>Restitution and Victim Services (RAVS) Project: (Update included with the SAVIN Coordination Office Vacant positions)</p>
	<p>VI. <u>SAVIN/VINE Webinar Presentation</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erica Cecil and Karen Adams from VINE shared difference between VINE link and VINE watch. Demonstrated how to use various features of VINE watch and the reporting.
	<p>VII. <u>Legislative Update</u></p> <p><i>DISCUSSION/CONCERN(S)</i></p> <p>SGC Membership & Expirations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that the biggest thing to come up in the Legislature is a panel to make a recommendation about whether the paroling authority will continue to set the minimums, whether the judges will set them, or whether they'll be set at a lower rate (around one third of what the maximum is). For example, this last year the Paroling Authority set 18 yrs for Sex Assault 1st degree which could turn into 6 to 7 years. It would have a serious impact on domestic abuse cases and sex assault cases. We need people to mobilize to fight this. • Ms. Mercado (HSCADV) asked who is leading this in the Legislature? Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated CVCC, DV, SA so 3 victim organizations on the panel out of 21 or 22. • Mr. Dunn (Community Member) stated that victims feel that the judges are not sympathetic and the whole process is disappointing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Malafu-Eliesa (Maui VW) agreed and stated that when she worked in Las Vegas, the minimum term is decided by the judges, and they didn't get a lot of victim participation. That to leave it up to one person is hard. But 18 years to 6 or 7 years is a slap in the face. • Ms. Benevides (Hawai'i VWP) stated that their fear is if they don't set some kind of mandatory minimum, that judges will give only 6 months to a year as the minimum. • Mrs. Ferguson-Brey (ED-CVCC) stated that we need to find a way to satisfy everyone. • Mr. Dunn (Community Member) stated to start talking to your legislatures now.
NEXT MEETING ADJOURNMENT	<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 Wednesday, September 25, 2024 (9:30 am - 11:30 am)</u>