



**Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council  
Victims' Rights Committee Minutes  
Monday, February 24, 2020**

**Team Members Present:**

Marla Bell	Kendall Schultz	Jen Dunn
Monica Paz	Hon. Michael Aprahamian	Eryn Menden

**Team Members Absent:**

Chrissy Preston

**Also Present:**

Rebecca Luczaj	Janelle McClain
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Dunn called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Approve Minutes from December 17, 2019 Meeting**

Motion: Bell moved, second by Dunn, to approve the minutes from December 17, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

**Update on Proposed State Victim Legislation**

The state Senate held a hearing last week regarding the legislation, which has been updated to only mention privacy, stating, "... If a victim submits a statement for parole, pardon, and sentencing consideration, it would be confidential." This means that the statement would not be available on the public access portal, and thus, not publishable by the media.

Aprahamian arrived at 12:03 p.m.

The Assembly did not hear the bill, and will be in recess until early 2021.

**Continue to Discuss Tracking Restitution Affidavit Outcomes**

Dunn reported that there have been recent discussions in the District Attorney's Office that the Restitution Affidavit may be causing more issues than not. Many of the judges and private bar attorneys do not appear to understand or agree as to the use of the form.

Dunn stated that the county is meeting the form's purpose by having Schultz available to work with the victims and interested parties, and as a result, the number of restitution hearings has decreased.

Menden arrived at 12:12 p.m.

Paz will add the affidavit to the next Criminal/Traffic Judges' meeting on April 21 and invite Aprahamian to obtain feedback from the judges.

Schultz has a spreadsheet that is used to track the cases for the restitution affidavits that she will bring to the next meeting.

## **Review and Discuss Recommendations from the WI Crime Victims' Rights Board on Victim Privacy and Consider Adding These to the Committee Work Plan**

Dunn distributed and reviewed a document titled "Report and Recommendation of the Wisconsin Crime Victims' Rights Board (CVRB); Respect for the Privacy Interests of Victims of Crime."

The District Attorney's Office plans to create an "Opt In/Opt Out" form for use regarding the sharing of victims' personal information.

The focus of the recommendations is to keep the information confidential from the public, not necessarily from other interested parties, such as defense attorneys.

The committee discussed the list of six recommendations and focused on the following:

3. Jurisdictions should create a process to inform victims about when and with whom personal and sensitive information might potentially be shared so that victims can provide input to prevent or mitigate any harm that could result.
4. Jurisdictions should adopt an opt-in or opt-out process.
6. Agencies should adopt a procedure for victims to raise privacy concerns or express preferences for sharing (or not sharing) their information.

Motion: Bell moved, second by Aprahamian, to add recommendations 3, 4, and 6 to the existing Victims' Rights Committee Work Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Announcements**

Dunn was elected as the chair of the Crime Victims' Rights Board.

The DOC has hired a new Office of Victim Services and Programs Director – Elizabeth Lucas.

## **Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Continue to discuss the use of the Restitution Affidavit
- Add Elizabeth Lucas as a member of the committee to replace Chrissy Preston

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Adjourn**

Motion: Aprahamian moved, second by Bell, to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 p.m.