



BROWARD VICTIM'S RIGHTS COALITION

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED, PRESENT & HEARD

Minutes from the General Meeting held on

February 19, 2025

11:00 AM

Plantation Police Department

451 N.W. 70th Terrace

Plantation, FL 33317

- I. Call to Order: Jenifer Mejia Coronell
 - Meeting called to order at 11:06 AM
- II. Introductions: All Members Present
 - Total attendees in January's meeting: 24
- III. Read and approve minutes from January meeting: All Present
 - Ariel Lander motioned to approve the minutes; Victoria Sexton seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Elena Muñoz
 - General Account
 - Starting balance January: \$30, 986.63
 - - \$70 to SunBiz to renew our nonprofit status
 - -4.25 in service fees from the bank
 - -\$602.40 transferred into the Leadership Broward account
 - -\$771.28 transferred into the RLK account
 - +\$215.96 membership payments from Plantation PD, Margate PD, Davie PD, Coral Springs PD, Sunrise PD, and the State Attorney's Office Victim Advocates
 - Ending balance January: \$29,754.66
 - RLK Account
 - Starting balance January: \$1,205.22
 - Two payments made in January
 - -\$501.50; \$500.00 security deposit for a Coconut Creek homicide survivor, and a \$1.50 fee for credit card payment
 - -\$450.10 payment for a mattress for a Plantation homicide survivor
 - -\$771.28 from the general account into the RLK account.
 - +\$25 transferred from Venmo, earned during the annual meeting
 - +\$0.01 in interest
 - Ending balance January: \$1,049.91
 - Leadership Broward Account
 - Starting balance January: \$2,321.01
 - +\$199.99 refund from GoDaddy for website
 - -\$602.40 from the general account into the Leadership Broward account
 - Ending balance January balance: \$2,524.00
 - Jill Fogel motions to approve the treasurer's report, Judy Nesbitt seconds. Motion passes.

- V. Speaker: Rosario Alston, Victim Services Specialist, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- Rosario Alston has 24 years working with families, formally a law enforcement victim advocate in the Northeast
 - Education on resources available is a vital and important piece to providing victim services
 - MADD operates in the US and Canada (with a smaller team in Canada)
 - There are 7 MADD victim advocates in Florida (Broward, Martin and Palm Beach)
 - If there's an impairment present during the beginning of the case, please call MADD
 - Victim advocates at MADD can help with financial/rental assistance, navigate restitution, emergency needs, red cross, RLK, utilities and other assistance
 - MADD VAs always provide case updates to the LE VA on the case
 - Note on crime victim compensation: OAG application is often a long process and there is an analyst shortage – OAG does a great job with the resources that they have – when we are providing the information to them, it is not falling on deaf ears. In all the years of submitting applications, Rosario has had only 1 fail
 - Communication and ownership over work is key – collaboration is the best way to get families connected with services; spread the case among all agencies
 - Website with resources: <https://madd.org/>
- VI. New Business:
- A. LETF – Elena Muñoz
- Over the past few years there has been a consistent decrease in our ending balance across the BVRC accounts, by, on average around \$7,000 year after year
 - December 2022 end of year total for all accounts: \$47,600.40
 - December 2023 end of year total for all accounts was: \$40,036.44
 - December 2024 end of year total for all accounts was \$34,512.86
 - Over the years, RLK requests, Holiday Helper requests, and the Garden engravement costs have all increased. Additionally, the cost to reserve venues for events have also increased.
 - Traditionally, a large income source for BVRC has been the Law Enforcement forfeiture funds, and we are asking that Law Enforcement advocates approach their leadership for these donations
 - Debbie Geller added: there has been a noticeable decrease in forfeiture fund donations, not nearly the number or amount that we use to get. Please approach the Chiefs of Police. Leadership is usually in support of funding that goes directly to victims, and the worst they are going to say is no when asking for victim support – ask your Chiefs!
 - BVRC will provide the 501c-3 determination letter (confirming non-profit status) and our W9 form
- B. Website – Jenifer Mejia-Coronell
- There were too many charges going on every few months and year so decided to switch to managing our own site
 - Now we are working with GoDaddy directly, no more third party.
 - Received the \$199.99 refund; now have a plan that we pay every 5 years
 - We will be uploading minutes, and listing different events will be posted there – anything you want us to post, please let us know so we can post it on the website.
 - Check it out! The new site is also very mobile friendly.
- C. Healing Box Event – Jill Fogel
- Healing box events** – Event where survivors of victims of crime create memory boxes especially for cases where children have been lost or lost parents/loved ones (DUI, homicide cases). Expanding the concept to “healing box,” to include living survivors. Family members are provided with a box and decorations for them to customize/ decorate the box. They can write and include letters/messages to loved ones (especially when they can't go to the funeral). Crafts/decorations can be specific to family, alphabet stickers, cards etc. The boxes

are filled with memories/memorabilia; concept of healing for the person, not therapy but is therapeutic. Variations can also include letter to offender, letter to themselves, many different things. Not expensive. Sites for the event can be NJCC, or a Broward County library system with grief books collected in the same space.

- Motion for BVRC to fund a trial session and see how well attended it is/and cost; expense is dependent on number of participants, about \$5/per person and divide the room by ages.
 - Jill Fogel motions to fund healing box event, Victoria Sexton seconds, motion passes.
 - Opposition by Ariel Ladner: move to table the motion until title and amount; quorum may not be there; information may not be there; motion is to approve if this is a program that membership all approves of in future meetings; as we are operating at a deficit so we may want to be cautious of our spending.
 - Debbie makes motion not to exceed \$100 Paulina seconds – motion passes based on majority
 - Discussion: Ariel Ladner would like to table the motion (same above)
 - Elena asks when they would be doing this – trial run, thinking June-August
 - Based on how first event goes we can decide to plan another
 - Ask if any Sororities/Fraternities that could become a project for them to donate the funds to host this event? Jill Fogel would like a trial before additional funding but perhaps in the future, this could be a community sponsored project.
 - Briana Germain is in a sorority and will discuss BVRC project with the members.

VII. Standing items

A. National Crime Victim's Rights Week (NCVRW) April 6th -12th

Theme: Kinship/ Connecting/ & Healing

➤ GARDEN COMMITTEE – Judy Nesbit

- Thank you to the committee – Vigil is April 8th
- 10 names are going on the wall this year, invoice is sent; 1 is a survivor- so the wall will say in honor of, not in memory of to make everyone include
- Currently, the application deadline is January 15th and the money paid by February 15th – the timeline is tight, and nominations can be collected all year (don't have to wait). By moving up the deadline the names can be approved in the January meeting and monies collected (if there aren't any wavers) earlier.
 - Engravings are very expensive and moving the deadline will also give more time to raise funds
 - Tech/construction schools were raised as a potential option for free or reduced cost engravings – there are not many engraving businesses and schools could make it more affordable
- Judy Nesbitt makes a motion that engraving applications are in by December 31st; Debbie Geller concurs, Jill Fogel seconds, motion passes.
- Discussion regarding ensuring victims are not offenders/will not need to be taken down from the wall (as a funder in the past was removed because of fraud): Need time to investigate and ensure we don't have to remove anyone again. All advocates/agencies please be mindful. Can only use NCIC for lawful purposes and is not lawful to run victims through the system, please check with your detectives.
- Potentially add a waiver check box like “is there anything that would preclude them from being added to the wall” – discussion tabled until a detailed update to the form is proposed
- Other garden updates:
 - The flyer and program are done and will be sent around soon
 - Marta is providing the food and possibly the flowers
 - Paulina Quintero will provide tablecloths, plates and utensils

- Ask to pressure clean and clean the garden (committee will do a walk through the day of to make sure it is very clean)
 - Rock painting – Perhaps for next year we could collect throughout the year by having a bucket of rocks for people to paint and leave
 - a. This year we will paint the rocks at the March meeting
 - i. Need brown butcher paper during next meeting
 - ii. Deva Cats-Baril will bring the markers/paint supplies
 - iii. Jill Fogel will get rocks
- EVENTS COMMITTEE – Elena Muñoz & Jenifer Mejia Coronell
 - NCVRW Training & Awards Luncheon: 4/10/25
 - Galupis is the location, working with them to adjusting some things with the price and then will send around the details/registration
 - Needs assessment with the trainer is complete – collaborating in the community is the theme, working on getting a final title
- AWARDS COMMITTEE – Elena Muñoz
 - **Nominations are due March 7th by 5pm** – Law Enforcement; Victim Assistance Professional; Agency; Volunteer; and Prosecutor of the Year
 - Nominee nor nominator needs to be a member
 - University students, with nothing to do with BVRC, will be the non-biased reviewers of the nominations
- B. RLK Victim Assistance Fund – Elena Muñoz
 - December: 1 application approved: \$489 for a family member of a homicide victim (Plantation PD request)
 - January: 3 applications approved for \$500 each: Security deposit for housing, victim of homicide (Coconut PD request); groceries, Walmart card for DUI serious bodily injury (SAO request); assistance for a child sexual battery victim (Davie PD request)
- C. Social Media Committee – Paulina Quintero
 - Events currently aware of and posting about: teen sexual violence month (February) and MADD 5K at the end of April
 - If there is anything you would like posted on social media, let Paulina know (pquintero@sao17.state.fl.us)
- D. Speaker's Bureau/ Community Outreach – Jenifer Mejia-Coronell
 - If you mention BVRC at any speaking engagements, please notify Ashley Connon (aconon@margatefl.com) to keep track of the audiences BVRC information is reaching
- E. Membership – Belize Leiva
 - Received more payments and agency payments recently (from Legal Aid, Lauderhill, and BSO today)
 - Belize will bring the membership list to subsequent meetings; if you are not sure you or your agency paid, you can check with Belize (bleiva@lauderhill-fl.gov)

VIII. Announcements

- Feb 26th train the trainer 75 registered, still space; 9-5
- Victim Service Designation – hosting Coconut Creek, initial 40 hours, for new; update in Miami
- SART meeting is 2.20

IX. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn Jenifer Mejia Coronell, Paulina Quintero seconds. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 12:20

**Next meeting
March 19, 2025
11:00am**

Plantation Police Department

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www.browardvictimsrights.org

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