



BROWARD VICTIM'S RIGHTS COALITION

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED, PRESENT & HEARD

**Minutes from the General Meeting held on November 20, 2024 11:00 AM
Plantation Police Department
451 N.W. 70th Terrace
Plantation, FL 33317**

- I. Call to Order: Sandra Vazquez
 - Meeting called to order at 11:03am.
- II. Introductions: All Members Present
- III. Read and Approve Minutes from September Meeting: All Present
 - Elena would like to reflect on the prior month's minutes that the social media committee is full. Another person is not needed.
 - Judy Nesbitt motioned to approve the minutes. Juliana Chereji Dunn seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Debbie Geller
 - General Account
 - Starting Balance: \$37,077.17
 - -\$136.85 transferred to the Leadership Broward Account
 - -\$543.03 transferred to the RLK Account
 - \$-3.25 charged in service fees
 - \$1,432.71 deposited in bowling event payments
 - Ending Balance: \$37,826.75
 - RLK Account
 - Starting Balance: \$2,034.60
 - -\$1,511.52 paid to reserve the bowling alley
 - -\$55.63 paid to Office Depot for the bowling banner
 - \$543.03 transferred from the general account
 - Ending Balance: \$1,010.48
 - Leadership Broward Account
 - Starting Balance: \$1,267.59
 - -\$136.85 paid to Edco for Bowling Awards
 - \$136.85 transferred from the general account
 - 0.01 earned in interest
 - Ending Balance: \$1,267.60
 - Jill motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Paulina Quintero seconded. Motion passed.
 - Ariel Ladner - Suggested investing funds for a greater rate of return.

V. Speaker: Shena Kitt
Chief Operating Officer
Women in Distress

- Services are available for everyone at Women in Distress.
- It is a therapeutic environment. An empowerment-based program.
- There are typically more children than adults at the shelter. Single parents sometimes come with 5 to 6 children.
- There is a respite drop-in center for children on site; children's services include play therapy and EMDR therapy.
- There is an Injunction for Protection Department and a Dependency Program.
 - Currently working with the State Attorney's Office to streamline high lethality cases.
 - Courtroom advocacy is offered.
- The criteria for shelter is an incident of domestic violence has occurred, the survivor is afraid of their partner and they are in imminent danger. They do not need to be living together.
- Emergency shelter is a minimum of a 6 week stay, however clients are able to leave prior to that 6 week timeframe.
- During shelter, advocates work with the survivors on getting into housing or linking with other resources.
- There is a rapid rehousing program at WID with 7-8 people participating at a time.
 - Working on obtaining transitional housing in the future.
- Financial support is offered, when available for moving expenses.
- For victims who are not staying in the shelter, all other services are available. There is currently a waitlist for outreach services.
- The referral form for outreach is being redone. When the referral is e-mailed, it goes to a general mailbox, which is viewed by 5 staff members and there is a 24 hour turnaround. E-mail referral forms to frontdesk@womenindistress.org.
- Survivors may also call the hotline 954-761-1133 or the admin line 954-760-9800 to receive services.
- Please contact Shena if there are problems with obtaining services through the Hotline or if you have a special circumstance that may not specifically meet the standard criteria, such as sexual abuse to a minor household member skitt@womenindistress.org.

VI. New Business:

- A. Annual Meeting
 - RLK Basket raffle
 - The annual meeting will be December 18th at 11:30am at the Jacaranda Country Club.
 - Every year a basket raffle is held.
 - If you would like to donate a basket to be raffled off, please e-mail Jenifer and tell her what the theme will be, if known.
 - The baskets can be various themes. Ex. Wine, cheese, pet, specific holidays, etc.
 - Payments for the annual meeting can be made by scanning the QR codes on the meeting announcement flyer or credit card payments may be processed over the phone.
- Holiday Helper nominations are currently being accepted. Nominees will receive up to \$100 per family member. Five applications have been received so far. Please ensure your nominee's e-mail address is correct on the form as the Amazon gift cards will be sent via e-mail.

VII. Old Business

- A. Bowling event wrap up- Ashley Conon

- a. The bowling event went well. Fundraising efforts went well! Thank you to the event's committee, the board, and all attendees!
- B. RLK Victim Assistance Fund – Elena Muñoz
 - a. RLK is a fund used to assist victims in the aftermath of a crime. The fund can be used to pay vendors directly or to purchase gift cards for the victims. A BVRC membership is needed to apply. You must state why the funds are needed and what other resources have been applied for.
 - b. Rlk applicants can request up to \$500 per victim. It is a fund of last resort.
 - c. Rlk requests online go to Elena. Elena will review the requests to ensure they are complete and then forward them to the RLK committee to vote. A police report will need to be e-mailed to Elena to go along with the application. emunoz@sao17.state.fl.us.
 - d. Last month 2 RLK applications were approved – Lauderhill PD requested a \$250 Walmart gift card to replace locks for an aggravated battery victim and Hallandale Beach PD requested \$500 in gas and Walmart gift cards for a homicide survivor.
- C. Social Media Committee – Paulina Quintero
 - a. Please e-mail Paulina if you would like anything posted on social media at pquintero@sao17.state.fl.us.
- D. Speaker's Bureau/ Community Outreach – Ashley Conon
 - Please e-mail Ashley if you mention BVRC at any speaking engagements aconon@margatefl.com . BVRC mentions are tracked for grant purposes.
- E. Membership – Tara Arena
 - Membership dues are due each February. Membership dues are \$10 for students, \$25 for individual members, or \$60 for an agency. An agency membership is for 3 named individuals from your organization.
- F. Elections – Jill Fogel
 - The election results and new board members were announced.
 - The new board members are: President – Sandra Vazquez, Vice President – Jenifer Mejia Coronel, Membership Chair – Belize Leiva, Corresponding Secretary – Elena Muñoz, Recording Secretary – Deva Cats-Baril, Treasurer – Ashley Conon.

VIII. Announcements

- Tricia James would like to remind the membership of the organization Parents of Murdered Children.
 - Barbara Koeppel started the organization, which meets every second Wednesday of the month, at the Hollywood Police Department. If families need to talk or just listen – if anyone needs support – feel free to call Tricia for information at 954-967-4411.
- It was announced at the Broward Domestic Violence Council meeting that the Office of the State Attorney will have a streamlined Assistant State Attorney assigned to high lethality dv cases. If you have concerns for a high lethality case, please contact Taylor Tyson ttyson@browardsao.com, 954-831-8049 or Michelle Bamdas mbamdass@sao17.state.fl.us, 954-831-7635.
- The final SART meeting of the year is coming up on November 21, 2024 10am-12pm at NJCC. The flyer will be sent out to the membership.

IX. Adjournment.

- Judy Nesbitt motioned to adjourn. Tricia James seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 12pm.

ANNUAL MEETING

December 18, 2024 11:30am

Jacaranda Country Club

9200 West Broward Blvd.

Plantation, 33324

www.browardvictimsrights.org

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