

FUNDING: DCJS had multiple concerns

FROM PAGE ONE

forensic services at Centra, followed that up with her own letter to DCJS on March 24, noting other incidents throughout the years raised her concern. After the March 2022 incident, Rasmussen saw the need to speak up.

“I am very disheartened with this behavior and it has continued to cause the forensic program to have little trust with SCVP,” Rasmussen said in the letter. “I have attempted to call SCVP and left a message to discuss my concerns but have not had a return phone call. As I have stated, over the years I have had some pretty valid concerns but have not come forward. With this new situation that just occurred, I do not feel I can continue to stay quiet.”

According to Rasmussen, she was informed that the advocate also nodded their

head yes or no to the questions they wanted the patient to answer. Even though a nurse approached the advocate to delete the recording, there was concern that the recording could still be on iCloud since it was recorded on an iPhone.

SCVP RESPONDS AND OTHER ISSUES RAISED

SCVP responded to the letter after DCJS sent it to them on March 25. The group conducted an investigation of the matter and reported its findings to DCJS. In SCVP’s response, the group says one advocate admitted to recording the conversation as she thought it would be helpful for later notes. She has confirmed it is deleted and not on any backup copy. Both said that neither remembers being trained on recording devices or sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) examinations, which raised a concern

for DCJS.

Both advocates denied nodding their heads to tell the victim which questions to answer.

That was one of several situations DCJS raised concerns about. The agency also pointed to a Nov. 2021 site visit, where officials found inconsistencies in financial management practices and internal control weaknesses at the nonprofit. They accused SCVP of submitting multiple requests for unjustified costs and projects, low service numbers based on the service area that covers seven counties and frequent and ongoing turnover in grant-funded staff and Board of Directors members.

To help SCVP address these issues, DCJS sent a corrective action plan. This plan highlighted many issues that SCVP was facing, including the concern about adequate staff training, which was the cause of the

March 8 incident. The plan set goals to help SCVP work on creating consistent financial management practices, acquire adequate staffing levels and have all hired staff and approved volunteers trained.

According to Amia Barrows, Victims Services grant monitor supervisor, she and the team of grant monitors had spent many hours over the last few years providing intensive monitoring and technical assistance with SCVP to meet grant compliance requirements. Two of the most concerning issues were the low numbers of victims served for such a large area and the high staff turnover. Barrows noted that the organization went from eight

staff members to only one, raising the question of how efficiently they could respond to victims in the seven localities.

SCVP received a letter notifying them of the suspension on March 29. On April 1, SCVP submitted its response to the corrective action plan to DCJS outlining the goals it met and planned to meet in the upcoming fiscal year 2022-2023.

On June 21, SCVP received a letter that the Criminal Justice Service Board voted on June 16 to terminate the Victims Services Grant effective immediately.

“It is disheartening to know all of the progress we have made and good work we have done as an agency over

the past few years, through the challenge of a pandemic, was not considered,” said Dr. Michele Laaksonen, LCP, executive director at SCVP.

In the fiscal year for 2022, DCJS awarded SCVP a total of \$818,305 with \$654,644 in federal funds, \$84,000 in state general funds and \$79,661 in a local match. Despite losing this funding, SCVP still plans to keep serving the area with help from community donations.

“We are devastated at the funding loss,” said Hattie Farrar, SCVP board president. “We still have to continue advocating for victims. Domestic violence did not stop in our community because this funding stopped.”

VACCINES: Pfizer and Moderna say they’ll have the new boosters

FROM PAGE ONE

contagious forms of the virus to date — made up more than 90% of all new coronavirus cases in the United States for the week ending July 23.

In addition, the CDC’s COVID Data Tracker shows that only about 34% of people who are eligible for a COVID-19 booster and about 29% of people ages 50 years and older who qualify for a second booster have gotten one.

In the fight against the Omicron variants, the federal government announced Friday, July 29, that new vaccines will be reformulated to

perform better against the now dominant and highly contagious omicron subvariant BA.5.

NEW BOOSTERS WILL BE READY BY FALL

Both pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna said they’ll have the new boosters ready by September, with the federal government agreeing to purchase millions of doses to allocate to the public.

“More than two years since the start of this pandemic, COVID-19 continues to be an illness that challenges how we interact with each other, how our workplaces

operate, and how our health systems care for us,” said Piedmont Health District Director Dr. Maria Almond. “COVID-19 continues to disrupt. But we as a community continue to persevere, finding ways to be together safely and to continue the care and services we provide to each other.”

Did you know?

Historically high fuel prices will undoubtedly prove to be one of the defining stories of 2022. As the average price for a gallon of gas reached heights drivers might never have imagined as recently as February 2022, some might have wondered just how much that same gallon might have cost roughly 100 years ago. According to the Office

of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, the average price for a gallon of gas in 1929 was 21 cents. Inflation calculators indicate that 21 cents in 1929 would have about the same purchasing power as \$3.59 has in 2022, suggesting that drivers had a far less painful trip to the pump in 1929 than they have had for much of 2022.

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!



Great building lot in a great neighborhood! Lots like this don't become available often, so now is your chance to buy and build your dream home on this wooded lot with views of the private lake from your backyard! Sewer and water is available as well as high speed internet. Don't wait!

\$54,900



318 South Main St., Farmville, VA 23901

Team Sandlin



Teresa Sandlin
REALTOR®
434-395-1414

Ron Sandlin
Associate Broker
434-315-4552

rsandlin@remax.net • teresasandlin@remax.net

SPORTS PHYSICALS —

Plan now so your student athlete can stay in the game!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Starting Wednesday, August 3rd
– Friday, August 5th
Call 434-315-5340

Walk in time slots will also be available.



CENTRA

Medical Group

935 S. Main St. Farmville VA 23901

Only \$35

Find us centrahealth.com

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Weather is unpredictable.
The grid is overloaded.
Cyber-attacks are happening.



Will You Control Your Power?

Hale's Electrical Service

GENERAC

POWER YOU CONTROL

Providing Backup Power and Peace of Mind for Farmville Since 2003!
Call Your Hale's Team today for a FREE in-home assessment.

Generac Automatic Standby Generators | Portable Generators | Pressure Washers

(804) 518-3060

HALE YES GENERATORS.COM

Drakes Branch ELDERLY/DISABLED APARTMENTS

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Applicants must meet elderly status qualifications

RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

- Spacious one bedroom apartments
- Wall to wall carpet
- Central air and heat
- Mini blinds
- On site Laundry

CALL (434) 568-3205

Drakes Branch Elderly

200 Foster Street
Drakes Branch, VA 23937

\$\$ GET PAID TOP DOLLAR \$\$

For Your Junk Car

NOW PAYING \$300 AND UP

For complete vehicle

We pay you to clean up!



A & M Towing | 434-298-8847