

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 11, 2018

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Laura Cordes, Doreen Del Bianco, Kristina M. Gonzalez, David Lawrence-Hawley, Kristan Mangiafico, Jessica Pizzano, Josie Robles, Gerrie Wild, Yvette Young

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-chair Judge Danaher, Michelle Lettieri, Deborah Witkin

OVS Staff Present:

Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, Denise Covington, Brenda Jordan, Mary Kozicki, Rachel McKnight, Jean M. Weisbrod

Guests:

Lauren Gerhard, Intern with the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Review of Materials
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. Advisory Council Charge
Susan welcomed new council members and reviewed the charge of the Advisory Council according to General Statutes § 54-203 (b) (11).

Susan reviewed the information contained in the Council binder that was distributed to members.

Council members were invited to tour the OVS Central Office at the conclusion of the meeting.

3. Advisory Council Member Introductions
New and continuing council members introduced themselves and shared information about their agency and their connection to supporting crime victims.

4. OVS Report

Introduction of Unit Managers

Linda Cimino reported that:

- OVS Managers will provide a 20-minute presentation on the functions of the units they represent at the council meetings throughout the 2018-2022 term of the Advisory Council. OVS Unit Managers introduced themselves.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Report

Linda Cimino reported that:

- The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) budget fund statement was distributed and explained. The role of the Fiscal Unit was discussed.

OVS Update

Valina Carpenter reported that:

- There were 46 Request for Proposal applications received. The review process is underway and will be complete by September 28, 2018.
- In August 2018, Chonita Mila joined OVS as a Court Planner 1 in the Fiscal Unit. Chonita transferred from the Judicial Branch Interpreter and Translator Services.
- Since January 2017, there have been 7 staff members that retired or chose to resign from OVS. Interviews for 2 victim services advocate positions will be held in October 2018.

Linda Cimino reported that:

- The Office of the Inspector General's Executive Summary for the audit of the FFY 2014 to 2016 was distributed. The purpose of the audit report completed by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General was to evaluate how the Connecticut Judicial Branch designed and implemented its crime victim assistance program. Connecticut's audit report contained no findings.
- The Victim Compensation Program received 604 primary applications as of August 31, 2017 compared to 1186 primary applications received as of August 31, 2018. In addition, there were 190 Emotional Injury applications received as of September 10, 2018, which is only 15% of the claims received.
- OVS will recognize 40 years of service in 2019. An event planning meeting is scheduled with details to follow.
- It is anticipated the educational and instructional videos will be complete and ready to view at the November council meeting.

Rachel McKnight reported that:

- A claims examiner has been hired and will join the Victim Compensation Unit in October 2018.

5. New Business

November meeting topics:

- Legislative updates and review
- CT Fatality Review Findings and Recommendations report
- Status of State of Connecticut Sexual Assault Evidence Collection kits
- OVS 40th year of service update
- Preview of OVS videos

Susan Omilian reported that the co-chairs welcome short presentations (20 minutes in length) on the Council meeting agenda from Council Members to share new issues or trends that relate to victim issues and would be of interest to the Council.

Susan distributed information and reported that she will host a book launch event on October 18, 2018, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Hartford YWCA to preview her latest book, *Staying in the Thriver Zone*.

Jessica Pizzano distributed *The Annual Report Fiscal Year, 2016-2017*, and information regarding support groups and for working with survivors of homicide.

Josie Robles announced Hartford Behavioral Health is celebrating 40 years of Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives, with a celebration at The Society Room of Hartford, on October 25, 2018. Jean Weisbrod will send event information to council members.

David Lawrence Hawley announced there will be a Klingberg Vintage Motorcar Series event on October 22, 2018. David will provide details to be distributed to council members.

6. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder