

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
January 10, 2017

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Laura Cordes, Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Steven Hernandez, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Karen M. Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, Deborah Witkin, Thomas J. Wydra

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Joseph W. Bibisi, Antonia Cordero

OVS Staff Present:

Tina Bouchard, Koren Butler-Kurth, Marcy Carlone, Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, Denise Covington, Brenda Jordan, Mary Kozicki, Rachel McKnight, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members introduced themselves and welcomed new council member, Thomas J. Wydra, Chief of Police, Hamden, CT.
2. Approval of the September 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 13, 2016. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented. Karen M. Jarmoc and Thomas J. Wydra abstained, as they were not in attendance at the September meeting.
3. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update
James Morgan distributed and reviewed the Office of Victim Services *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 12/31/16, FY 07/01/16 – 06/30/17*. Jim reported that as of December 31, 2016, OVS has expended 37.8% of the funds appropriated for FY 2016 – 2017. He stated that expenses are \$37,000 higher for the first 6 months of FY 2016 – 2017 compared to FY 2015 – 2016. Jim reported that OVS has made payments to 448 claimants compared to 429 claimants through the first 6 months of FY 2015 – 2016.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017*. Jim reported

the total amount of court collections is \$28,000 below the amount of collections at November 30, 2015. He stated that court collections have declined each month since July 2016. Jim reported that 8 courts have collection levels exceeding collection rates from FY 2015 – 2016 and 6 courts (Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, Middletown, Rockville, and Stamford) have collection levels significantly below rates from FY 2015 – 2016.

Council members expressed concern regarding the impact the reduction of per diem prosecutors has had on the amount of court collections made to the CICF which funds the OVS Victim Compensation Program.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Office for Victims of Crime Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program Annual Performance Measures Report October 01, 2015 – September 30, 2016*. Council members discussed the report.

4. Update on Judges' Institute Class Proposal
Susan reported that the Judges' Institute class proposal was accepted. Judge Danaher will provide an update at the next council meeting.
5. Update on CT State Police Academy Training Opportunity
Valina Carpenter reported the CT State Police Training Academy has agreed to incorporate victim sensitivity training provided by OVS in their educational curriculum. Valina would like to express appreciation to Judge Danaher for his efforts to facilitate the meeting between the Office of Victim Services and the CT State Police Training Academy.
6. OVS Updates
 - o James Morgan provided an overview with statistical data of the Fiscal Unit which is responsible for the oversight of 3 functions for OVS: grants and contracts administration, monitoring the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund revenue and expenses, and monitoring of the Forensic Evidence Collection Program budget and payment processing. He also distributed the *Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017 OVS Contractor List*.
 - o Rachel McKnight distributed the *Compensation Program Benefits* chart and the *Compensation for Crime Victims* brochure (JDP-VS-10 Rev 9/15). Rachel provided an overview with statistical data of the Compensation Program Unit which offers financial help to crime victims and their family members and other persons who have financial loss because of a crime. She stated the eligibility requirements and provided examples of the expenses including medical and dental, mental health counseling expenses, lost

wages, funeral costs, medical-related special needs, and crime scene cleanup.

- Tina Bouchard provided an overview of the Training and Outreach Unit. Tina discussed the training opportunities offered by OVS for mandated audiences, contractors, victim service providers, and law enforcement. She reported on the distribution of OVS informational materials to contractors, victim services agencies, hospitals, municipal and state police departments and the Judicial Branch. Tina also discussed the informational videos currently under development which will be accessible on the OVS Website and the Judicial Branch YouTube page.
- Brenda Jordan distributed and provided an overview of the new *Victims' Rights, OVS All Services, Compensation Program* themed posters, and the *All Services* bookmark for council members to review. In addition, Brenda presented an overview of the newly redesigned OVS Website which is www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim. She reviewed the Exit button feature and the *Internet Browsing Safety Tips* link.

David Lawrence-Hawley inquired about the Spanish, Polish, and Portuguese links. Brenda explained that the OVS Website currently has limited translations in Spanish, Polish and Portuguese and that the site information is under development with the Interpreter and Translator Services unit of the Judicial Branch.

- Denise Covington provided an overview with statistical data of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program which is in the 6th year of operation. Denise reported that the program recently implemented a new web-based activation system in partnership with the Judicial Branch Information Technology Division which allows for increased efficiency and accountability. In addition, Denise stated that Kristin Loranger, Regional Coordinator, implemented a Clinical Training Day which enables the SAFE students to complete all of the clinical requirements in 1 day.
- Koren Butler-Kurth reported on the OVS court-based victim services advocates and their role to support victims of violent crimes that resulted in physical injury or death. Koren reported that there are 36 victim services advocates assigned to courts that will attend hearings with victims and advocate for their rights, explain the criminal justice process, and give updates on the criminal case. In addition, she stated that a court-based victim services advocate can explain how to write a victim impact statement and may help victims deliver the statement to the court.

- Marcy Carlone distributed statistical data and provided an overview of the Civil Protection Orders (CPO). Marcy reported on the court location, the total number of CPO applications received, granted, and denied for the calendar years 2015 – 2016.

Council members discussed issues related to the denied CPO application category and the need for legislative change to better define stalking.

- Mary Kozicki reported that per C.G.S. § 54-203 (b)(10), OVS operates a toll-free Helpline that provides information and referrals to victims of crime, their families, and other appropriate parties such as criminal justice personnel and victim service providers. Mary reported that C.G.S. § 54-203 (b)(9) directs OVS to provide a post-conviction notification program which allows victims and immediate family members to request to be notified about changes in the status of convicted inmate in the custody of the Department of Correction.

Mary reported that effective January 2008 per C.G.S. § 53a-220(a) enacted through PA 08-01 there are 2 victim services advocates assigned to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. She stated that the victim services advocates provide notification to registered victims of parole, pardons, and commutation hearings.

7. State Budget Updates

This agenda item was not discussed due to the late hour and length of OVS updates at this meeting. It was agreed that the March meeting topics will include a discussion by council members on how the state budget cuts will impact services to victims and how they're preparing for the changes.

8. Preview of Issues in Upcoming Legislative Session

This agenda item was not discussed due to the late hour and length of OVS updates at this meeting. This topic will be included on the March meeting agenda.

9. New Business

Susan suggested that Steven Brown Psy. D., Director of Traumatic Stress Institute (TSI) of the Klingberg Family Centers, provide a presentation at the March meeting.

Laura Cordes distributed information and reported that the State of Connecticut Sentencing Commission will hold a Public Hearing on January 25, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building. The hearing will be on the registration, management and sentencing of sex

offenders in Connecticut. The Commission and its committees are seeking testimony on the criminal justice system's current capacity to reduce offender recidivism, provide for offender rehabilitation (if appropriate) and provide accurate, timely and pertinent information to members of the public and law enforcement regarding offender risk to the victim and community safety. The public hearing is also open to subject matter experts who wish to comment on emerging research, best practices and innovative approaches for consideration.

10. Adjournment
Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder