

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
March 10, 2015

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 3:45 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Robin Montgomery, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, and Deborah Witkin

Members Excused or Absent:

Antonia Cordero, Melissa Farley, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Karen Jarmoc, and David Lawrence-Hawley

OVS Staff and Guests Present:

Linda Cimino, Tina Bouchard, Valina Carpenter, Denise Covington, James Morgan, and Jean Weisbrod were present on behalf of the Office of Victim Services (OVS)

Interns Katie Adams, Meg Grant, and Julie Rodriguez from the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS)

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. Approval of the January 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 13, 2015. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 02/28/15, FY 07/01/14 – 06/30/15*. Jim reported that 50% of the budget was expended. The total amount of disbursements to date is \$1.6 million compared to last year's amount of \$2.2 million. Jim explained the difference is a result of 78 less compensation claims being filed.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152), Fiscal Year 2014-2015*. Jim reported that as of January 31, 2015, the gross amount collected for the fiscal year is \$1.2 million compared to \$1.1 million for the same period last year.

4. Legislative Updates

Laura Cordes distributed the *Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services 2015 Legislative Agenda* flyer.

Laura reported that CONNSACS has testified on the following bills as of March 10, 2015:

- Proposed S.B. No. 636, An Act Concerning Affirmative Consent directs higher education institutions to define affirmative consent in their policies to assist in determining whether sexual activity was consensual;
- Raised H.B. No. 6939, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault In The First Degree allows the court to impose a split-sentence of prison and probation in the most serious sexual assaults;
- Raised H.B. No. 6923, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault enhances rape shield laws to better protect the privacy of victims concerning court proceedings and records. The bill also requires police departments to transfer a sexual assault evidence collection kit to the Division of Scientific Services within 10 days from the collection of the kit and requires the Division of Scientific Services to analyze the kit within 60 days from collection; and
- H.B. No. 6498, An Act Concerning The Timely Transfer And Processing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits requires police to transfer a sexual assault evidence collection kit to the Division of Scientific Services within 10 days from the collection of the kit and requires the Division of Scientific Services to analyze the kit within 60 days from collection.

Chief Robin Montgomery reported that Proposed H.B. No. 5317, An Act Establishing a Workers' Compensation Fund for First Responders Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, creates a fund to allow first responders who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of witnessing traumatic events while on duty to receive workers' compensation benefits.

Chief Montgomery also reported on Proposed S.B. Bill No. 650, An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders, which allows the court to order the respondent to surrender all firearms and ammunitions in his or her possession to the police.

Susan Omilian reported that the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission issued its final report to Governor Dannel P. Malloy on March 6, 2015. Susan requested that Jean Weisbrod email Council members a copy of the report's *Appendix A, Consolidated Recommendations of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission* and include a hyperlink to the final report.

Brian Austin reported that the Governor's budget proposal might reduce staffing within the Division of Criminal Justice's Cold Case/Shooting Task Force.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported that Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has proposed a bill to allow a child endangerment charge related to a drunk driving conviction. This would replace the current risk of injury charge and increase the amount of time imposed for an ignition interlock device. The bill number is not yet assigned.

Linda Cimino reported that Raised S.B. No. 966, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners At Institutions of Higher Education would expand SAFE Program services to qualifying college and university health care facilities.

Linda reported on Raised S.B. No. 1033, An Act Concerning Court Operations, Section 23, allows the Victim Compensation Program to exclude life insurance benefits as a collateral source.

Linda Cimino and Laura Cordes provided an update on the Victims' Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission.

5. Presentation: Sexual Assault on College Campus and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Laura Cordes distributed a promotional card entitled *We're The Kind of Guys Who Take a Stand In Our Community*. She presented on the *Key Facts About Sexual Violence on Campus*. Laura reviewed the on-campus and off-campus support, medical assistance and evidence collection, and criminal justice assistance for victims of sexual assault.

Laura also distributed and presented on the *Fact Sheet Justice Department Implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)*. Laura stated that the specific purpose of PREA is to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse within adult and juvenile confinement facilities.

6. Presentation: Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System (CT SAVIN)

Due to time limits, this presentation was rescheduled for the May Council meeting.

7. New Business

Laura Cordes reported on the Supreme Court Evidence Oversight Committee, which meets March 23, 2015, and the Committee's request to change accusation standards.

Susan stated that the May Council meeting agenda should include legislative updates by Council members and the following presentation(s):

- CT SAVIN presented by OVS Staff
- Office of the Victim Advocate

8. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m

Jean Weisbrod, Recorder