

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
April 5, 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 3:25 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chairs the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, and Susan Omilian; Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Alison Chandler for Melissa Farley, Antonia Cordero, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Deborah Witkin

Members Excused or Absent:

Laura Cordes, Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández, Steven Hernández, David Lawrence-Hawley, Kristan Mangiafico for Karen Martucci, Thomas J. Wydra

OVS Staff Present:

Valina Carpenter, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the January 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 9, 2018. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
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 03/31/18, FY 07/01/17 - 06/30/18*. Jim reported that the expenses through March 31, 2018, are \$1,923,000 which is 5% lower than what was expended through March 31, 2017.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2017 - 2018*. Jim reported that court collections through February 2018 are \$282,000 below February 2017 and \$480,000 below February 2016.

Brian Austin discussed with the council members the Regionalized Infraction Adjudication Program (RIAP) and the decline in court contributions. Brian reported the decline was due to fewer infractions being issued by law enforcement officers and fewer prosecutors to process the infractions. Judge

Danaher discussed the reduced number of law enforcement officers which adds to the loss.

Council members discussed issues related to the RIAP and the decline in court contributions.

4. State Budget and Legislative Changes Discussion

Karen Jarmoc discussed with council members issues related to domestic violence dual arrests. Karen reported the dual arrest rate in Connecticut is 20% which is more than twice the national average of 7%. Karen discussed the current legislation, Raised S.B. No. 466, *An Act Concerning Dual Arrests and the Training Required of Law Enforcement Personnel with Respect to Domestic Violence*, in the Connecticut General Assembly which would add a dominant aggressor provision to the state's current family violence arrest law. This change in the law would guide police officers to arrest only the party they deem to pose the most serious ongoing threat or to be the most significant aggressor.

5. Presentation: *Taking the Journey Beyond Abuse: From Victim to Survivor to Thriver*

Susan Omilian distributed and reviewed a presentation, *Enter the Thriver Zone*. Susan discussed with council members the healing process for victims of abuse she has worked with including domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Susan distributed and discussed an article she wrote for the Hartford Courant, *The Changes That Maggie's Killing Brought*, dated December 22, 2000, and included a list of the warning signs of an unhealthy, abusive relationship.

Susan distributed information and discussed with council members the *My Avenging Angels Workshops™* she conducts and introduced her books which include a workbook, *Entering the Thriver Zone: A Seven-Step Guide to Thriving After Abuse* and her novel, *Awaken: The Awakening of the Human Spirit on a Healing Journey*, inspired by the true events of her niece Maggie's murder by her ex-boyfriend in 1999.

Susan distributed information and discussed a Clothing & Book Drive on Saturday, April 14 and 28, 2018, to benefit CT Alliance for Victims of Violence & Their Families, Inc. (CT-ALIVE), a non-profit organization which supports the free services Susan provides to women who have been abused.

6. OVS Update

James Morgan reported that:

- The federal government has finalized the FFY 2018 budget (which started this past October 1, 2017) and the Office for Victims of Crime is working on the 2018 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant allocations. OVS has been

notified the federal cap was set at approximately 4.3 billion, which is the highest that it has ever been. State victim assistance grants may receive a potential increase of 75% to their VOCA Assistance Grants for FFY 2018.

- OVS is working on a Request for Proposals, with an anticipated release date during the summer 2018, for new programs starting January 1, 2019.
- OVS plans to issue a Request for Proposals in late fall 2018 that will be open for all current VOCA funded programs, with a project start date of July 1, 2019.

Valina Carpenter reported that:

- Production of the educational and instructional videos has been completed for 3 out of 4 days of filming. The videos are expected to be completed by September 2018.

7. New Business

May meeting topics include a presentation on vicarious trauma by Mary O'Sullivan.

Council members were invited to provide a presentation about the agencies they represent at future meetings.

Susan Omilian suggested that the State Budget and Legislative changes discussion resume in September 2018.

8. Adjournment

Susan Omilian adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder