

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**May 10, 2016**

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 the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, David Lawrence-Hawley, Robin Montgomery, Deborah Witkin

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Karen Jarmoc, David Snyder for Karen Martucci

**OVS Staff Present:**

Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Guests Present:**

Doreen Del Bianco of Judicial Branch External Affairs, Jeanne Fusco, Executive Director of the Susan B. Anthony Project

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members and guests introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the March 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes  
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 8, 2016. 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 04/30/16, FY 07/01/15 – 06/30/16*. Jim reported that total disbursements to date are \$2.1 million compared to \$2.4 million at this time last year. Jim reported that payment has been made for 660 compensation claims compared to 590 claims at this time last year. He reported funds are sufficient to meet program obligations.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152), Fiscal Year 2015-2016*. Jim reported

that \$1.7 million from court contributions has been collected which is \$200,000 higher than last year at this time.

Members discussed the benefits related to the increased amount of court contributions to the CICF. Judge Danaher and council members expressed appreciation to Brian Austin for his efforts in assisting in the collection efforts.

4. Presentation: Trauma informed care and how it can be implemented in a program providing services to victims

Jeanne Fusco, Executive Director of the Susan B. Anthony Project, provided a presentation on *Shifting Organizational Focus to Trauma Informed Care*.

Jeanne described the multi-year process that the Susan B. Anthony Project, which serves sexual assault and domestic violence victims in the Torrington area, used to re-focus its efforts and implement fundamental shifts in the thinking and practices of the organization at all programmatic levels to match the core values of trauma informed care which are safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment. This shift, she reported, resulted in a number of changes including more awareness of the use of the tone and manner of how services were delivered by staff, a review of all forms and facility set-up and a focus on how to maintain a balance of power in the helping relationship so that now services provided are more survivor-centered with an empathic response.

Members discussed issues such as the benefits of providing trauma informed services to victims and the training curriculum that OVS offers to first responders of crime.

5. Round-table discussion: Connecticut Senate Bill 501, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017

Members discussed the proposed state budget and if it will impact victim service agencies.

6. OVS Updates

a) Susan reported that Laura Cordes presented the 2016 National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) Visionary Voice Award to Linda at the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence Annual Meeting and Breakfast on April 29, 2016.

b) Valina Carpenter provided statistical data on the services provided by OVS victim service advocates to assist victims of crime.

<b>Civil Protection Orders (CPOs)</b>	<b>January – May 2016</b>
CPO applications filed	642
Pending applications	67
CPOs granted	156
CPOs denied at hearing	156
Did not meet requirements or administrative denial prior to hearing	262
Withdrawn by applicant	1

<b>Number of individuals served by OVS victim service advocates</b>	<b>January – March 2016</b>
Homicide	351
Negligent Homicide	25
Driving under influence with injury	118
Driving under influence with death	25
Sexual assault (adult)	176
Sexual assault (child)	574
Robbery	155
Non-domestic assault	975
Burglary	104
All other	979

<b>Number of services provided to individuals by OVS Victim Service Advocates</b>	<b>January – March 2016</b>
Victim safety planning	146
Referrals to counseling services	629
Victim impact statements	600
Escort to court hearings	531
Advocacy	2199

c) Linda reported that the development of the OVS informational videos is moving forward. When the videos are complete they will be accessible on the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch OVS website.

d) Linda reported that the creation of the OVS educational posters is complete and they will be distributed to victim service agencies, hospitals, police departments, libraries, and other state agencies.

e) Linda reported that the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Program has expanded to include Connecticut Children's Medical Center, MidState Medical Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and St. Vincent's Medical Center which are all part of Region 2 in Connecticut.

7. New Business

a) Janice Heggie Margolis reported on S.B. No. 365, An Act Concerning Child Endangerment While Driving While Intoxicated and the Time Limit Under Which to Administer a Test For Blood Alcohol Levels. The bill establishes specific crimes for driving under the influence with a child passenger in any motor vehicle. This legislation has passed both the Senate and the House and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

b) Susan reported on an upcoming "My Avenging Angel Workshops; Living Well is the Best Revenge."

8. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder