

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
May 15, 2012

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, from 2:31 p.m. to 4:07 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Antonia Cordero, Anna Doroghazi for Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Kevin Lawlor, Robin Montgomery, Brian Moore, Susan Omilian, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Chester Brodnicki, Karen Jarmoc, Kimberly Joyner, and Rocco Tricarico

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Brenda Jordan, and Katie Nesta

Guest:

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the March 20, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 20, 2012. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. 2012 Legislative Update
Janice Heggie Margolis reported on House Bill (H.B.) No. 5553, An Act Concerning Substance Abuse Programs. The bill will revise the penalty for a third conviction of operating a motor vehicle under the influence to allow reinstatement of an operator's license after two years with lifetime installation and maintenance of an approved ignition interlock device.

Anna Doroghazi reported on H.B. No. 5365, An Act Concerning Court Operations and Victim Services. The bill will make victim compensation available to sexual assault victims who do not report to police but disclose the sexual assault to a specific provider.

Anna reported on H.B. No. 5548, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence. The bill will make victim compensation available to children who have witnessed domestic violence including children who are not related to the victim.

Anna also reported on H.B. No. 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses. The bill will mandate a sexual assault policy as well as prevention and awareness education for faculty and students.

Steve reported on the approval of H.B. No. 5388, An Act Concerning Court Fees and the delivery of Legal Services to the Poor, by the House and Senate. The bill, which would use court fees to avoid major layoffs in legal services, is awaiting action by the Governor.

Linda Cimino reported that H.B. No. 5365, An Act Concerning Court Operations and Victim Services, will also eliminate the \$100.00 deductible waiver and \$100.00 minimum loss.

Linda also reported on a revision to Connecticut General Statutes Section 54-212. The revision allows OVS to be reimbursed if the applicant recovers money from any other source or source including but not limited to, payments from state or municipal agencies, insurance benefits or workers' compensation awards as a result of the incident.

4. OVS Financial Report

Jim Morgan reported that grant funding for the SAFE Program ends on February 28, 2013. Jim explained a budget pick-up request for state appropriations for March – June 2013 was awarded in the amount of \$125,000. A full 2 year pick-up request for the following budget cycle July 2013 to June 2015 will be submitted.

Jim reported that as of April 30, 2012, the annual appropriation for the reimbursement of sexual assault exam kits was expended. As of May 10, 2012, there are 189 kits totaling \$170,587 that will not be paid until July. Jim explained it is anticipated that there will be a \$300,000 deficit as of June 30, 2012; \$141,000 of which are outstanding bills from June 30, 2011, that were carried over. Jim reported that OVS has received an additional \$100,000 in state funds for child interviews conducted by Multidisciplinary Teams. These costs were not previously funded by OVS and are in addition to the sexual assault kits currently billed to OVS.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget Statement for month ending 04/30/12. Jim reported that the remaining balance of unobligated funds should be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses for the remainder of the fiscal

year. Outstanding obligations as of June 30, 2012, will be paid in fiscal year 2012-2013.

Jim also distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Jim reported that deposits as of April 30, 2012, are \$280,000 behind collections. Fines and fees are \$150,000 lower than last year and escheated funds from Court Support Services Division are \$109,000 lower than last year. Projected expenses for the current fiscal year are approximately \$3.490 million.

Jim also reported that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award was reduced from \$5,080,541 to \$4,498,821. The reduction of \$581,720 is due to a new mandate at the federal level that the Department of Justice administrative costs need to be prorated to all programs including VOCA. Jim explained that OVS has several open grants which are able to accommodate the reduction without the need to reduce contracts in fiscal year 2012-2013.

5. OVS Program Updates

Brenda Jordan demonstrated a new database created for tracking statistical data from the Compensation Program surveys. Brenda explained that Compensation Program surveys are mailed to all claimants 60 days after a determination is made. The surveys are mailed on all determination types whether the claimant is awarded with pay (AWP), awarded without pay (AWOP), or denied (DC).

Brenda provided members with a handout of the Compensation Program Survey statistics from July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011. Members discussed the statistical data.

Denise Covington reported on a new database that was created to track the requirements of the SAFE's.

Denise reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been 235 cases among the 6 participating hospitals, with 72 case responses this year. There are 19 SAFE's participating in the Program, and 15 nurses are either actively precepting or working on completion of the Program's requirements.

Denise provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 65 completed cases from January 1, 2012, to April 30, 2012.

Denise reported on the success of relationships with community partners.

Denise reported that Elaine Pagliaro provided a presentation on DNA and Contamination at the March 26, 2012, Quality Assurance meeting.

Denise reported that a training was held at the Hartford Police Academy as well as a training for sexual assault advocates. Denise also reported that she will be co-teaching with a certified instructor at the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST).

Denise reported that the last SAFE training course under the grant will be held in the fall at Quinnipiac University, 20 nurses have expressed interest.

Denise also reported that since the Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SFDI) camera system was implemented, 65% of patients have consented to the photos.

Denise provided members with a map of Connecticut illustrating the locations of the 6 participating hospitals in relation to where the SAFE's live. Members discussed the location of the hospitals in connection to SAFE response time and expansion of the program to other hospitals. Linda explained there will be continued discussion next meeting along with a presentation on the Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system.

6. New Business

This agenda item was not discussed.

7. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder