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Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
June 13, 2023

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met via Microsoft Teams.

Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Judge Laura F. Baldini, Co-Chair Yvette Young, Beth Hamilton, Amy Lupoli, Irene Mikol, Susan Omilian, Jessica Pizzano, Maurice W. Reaves on behalf of Marc Pelka, Gerrie Wild, Deborah Witkin, Andrew Woods

Members Excused or Absent: Lisa D'Angelo, Bob Garguilo, Lee Ross, Ebonie Suggs

OVS Staff in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Mary Kozicki, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Announcements
Co-Chair, Yvette Young, opened the meeting at 3:03 p.m.
Council and OVS Staff members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the April 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes
The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Presentation on *My Avenging Angels*™ workshops
Susan Omilian, Esq., survivor of homicide, with CT-ALIVE, CT Alliance for Victims of Violence & Their Families, provided an informational presentation on *My Avenging Angels*™ workshops, which guides victims of abuse and violence through post-trauma growth and include follow-up monthly group mentoring sessions and retreats. The free workshops are held on a virtual platform four times a year.
4. Legislative Updates
Jessica Pizzano reported on:
Proposed Bill No. 6510, An Act Designating Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month, to support the survivors of homicide by educating and influencing the public about the impact of homicide on families and communities by designating a month that encompasses the holidays, was amended to designate November 20th to December 20th as *Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month*.

Mary Kozicki reported on:
House Bill No. 6874, An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations, the Sharing of Judicial Branch Records, and the Award of Damages in Certain Civil Matters which seeks to expand access to juvenile and youthful offender proceedings to the next of kin of victims.

Gerrie Wild reported on:
Senate Bill No. 5, An Act Strengthening the Protections Against and Response to Domestic Violence, which expands the electronic monitoring program for family violence offenders and prohibits the court from ordering an injured spouse to make temporary or permanent alimony payments to a spouse who is convicted of criminal

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attempt or conspiracy to commit murder or manslaughter, and a few other felony convictions.

Senate Bill No. 1118, An Act Establishing the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council, which seeks to establish a new advisory council to assess and provide guidance regarding the state's criminal justice response to domestic violence by the expansion of Connecticut's Alert Notification/GPS Program for high risk domestic violence offenders and provides notification to victims and the implementation of specialized domestic violence dockets focusing on victim safety, offender accountability, and services to both.

Andrew Woods reported on the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Coalition and the collaboration efforts to request lawmakers to provide funding to support violence prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery programs specific to community violence across the state of Connecticut.

5. Victim of Crime Act Funding Update

James Morgan reported:

- The Director for the Office for Victims of Crime provided a monthly update on the Federal Crime Victims Fund (Fund).
- The federal fiscal year started on October 1. Deposits into the Fund as of April 30, 2023, are \$838 million for the first seven months of the federal fiscal year.
- The balance in the Fund as of April 30, 2023, is \$2.39 billion dollars, with \$1.74 billion still to be deducted for FFY 2023 grants.
- Based on current revenue collections, OVC is projecting a fund balance of \$1.4 billion to start FFY 2024.
- The FFY 2024 budget request includes an appropriation of \$1.2 billion from the Fund for OVC programs. This represents a 37% decrease from the FFY 2023 appropriated amount.
- The State budget for FY 24 and FY 25 included additional American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding to the Judicial Branch to maintain existing services to our contracted service providers.
- FY 23/24 contracts will be continued at the same award levels as the current year, and in accordance with the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 the VOCA match requirement has been waived again for the upcoming year.
- OVS will keep the Council up to date with the status of the federal crime victims fund.

6. New Business

No updates provided.

7. Adjournment

Co-Chair, Judge Laura F. Baldini, adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder