

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
July 11, 2017

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, Doreen Del Bianco for Melissa Farley, Lucia Giocoechea-Hernandez for Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen M. Jarmoc, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, Deborah Witkin, Thomas J. Wydra

Members Excused or Absent:

Steven Hernandez, David Lawrence-Hawley

OVS Staff Present:

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Judge Danaher opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the March 7, 2017 and May 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2017, and May 9, 2017. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Presentation: CT Juvenile Justice Alliance
Abby Anderson, Executive Director, CT Juvenile Justice Alliance (CTJJA), distributed *Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance: Ending the Criminalization of Youth* and reviewed the key initiatives. Abby stated that the CTJJA serves as a bridge by taking and translating information from the communities and sharing that knowledge at statewide forums and with policymakers.

Abby reported that the CTJJA is presently completing a report based on a project focused on the voices of girls in the juvenile justice system. The major finding is that girls don't feel they have a voice in their own cases. She also reported that the CTJJA advocates for an array of programs and services for committed delinquent youth and calls upon the state to provide as many of these services as possible in the community following the closure of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School scheduled for July 1, 2018.

Council members discussed issues related to delinquent youth and the alternative solutions offered by CTJJA. Council members agreed there is a need to build a better system and find ways to help individuals hurt by juvenile offenders.

4. Legislative Session and Budget Update Discussion

Council members discussed the status of the state budget proposals and the possible reduction in funding for victim services agencies. Council members discussed issues related to victim service agencies collaborating to meet the needs of victims.

5. Update on Judges' Institute Class

Judge Danaher shared portions of a presentation and two training videos which he has produced and shared with Superior Court Judges at the Connecticut Judges' Institute Class in June 2017. The materials showed how a judge's interaction and demeanor with parties in a courtroom might better acknowledge the trauma these parties may have experienced in their civil and criminal cases and how court personnel can work not to re-traumatize them when appearing in court.

Council members discussed the messages in the training videos, how past trauma can affect victims and offenders who come before the bench and better ways to relate to victims in the courtroom who have been affected by trauma.

6. 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 06/30/17, FY 07/01/16 – 06/30/17*. Jim reported that the total amount of disbursements to date were \$2,597,387.28. Jim also reported that the VOCA fund balance was \$695,173.83.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2016 – 2017*. Jim reported that this statement includes court collections through 05/31/17 and the collections for 06/30/17 will be posted later this week during the year-end closeout. Jim stated that as of 05/31/17 court collections were \$377,920 lower compared to collections as of 05/31/16. Jim also reported that the court collections have increased slightly during the past three months and the final revenues are expected to be sufficient to cover FY 16/17 expenses from the Fund.

7. OVS Update

Doreen Del Bianco distributed the *OLR Bill Analysis, HB 7198, An Act Concerning Court Operations, Victim Services and Fraudulent Filings*, for council members to review. Linda Cimino noted the bill reduces, from six to four, the number of times per year that the state Advisory Council will meet. This quarterly meeting schedule for the Advisory Council will begin in January 2018.

8. New Business

September meeting topics include updates on the state budget and legislative changes including changes to Office of Victim Services and the state Advisory Council. November meeting topics include a report on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) by Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV).

Susan Omilian reported that she will host a book launch event for her first novel on October 18, 2017, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Hartford YWCA to recognize A Week Without Violence.

Antonia Cordero announced that UCONN now offers a Focused Area of Study on Violence Prevention in Families and Communities.

9. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder