

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**July 23, 2013**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room from 2:03 p.m. to 4:08 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Liza Andrews for Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, Brian Moore, Susan Omilian, and Rocco Tricarico

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Kevin Lawlor, and Jan VanTassel

**OVS Staff Present:**

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Tina Bouchard, and Katie Nesta

**Guest:**

Joseph Froehlich, Law Enforcement Coordinator, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the May 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes  
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 21, 2013. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Connecticut Lethality Assessment Program  
Joseph Froehlich provided a presentation on the Connecticut Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP, which began in Connecticut in September 2012, was developed under the training and guidance of the Maryland model. The Maryland model began in October 2005, evolving from the research of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. The Program is designed to identify those victims of domestic violence who are at highest risk, and connect them to services in order to reduce subsequent abuse and especially killings. The process uses an assessment developed through research to identify those victims who are at greatest risk, and connects the victim directly with an advocate for support and safety information. CCADV is leading Connecticut's efforts to gradually expand the use of this approach throughout the state.

Members discussed the LAP.

4. 2013 Legislative Update

Liza Andrews reported on Public Act 13-214, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Liza explained that one section of the Act directs the Judicial Branch to explore possible changes that would allow the courts to more effectively enter financial orders as part of restraining orders. Liza also explained that the Act requires courts, whenever possible, to make available a safe and confidential area for domestic violence victim advocates to meet with victims. The Act also updates statutory definitions by replacing the term "battered women" with the term "domestic violence victim."

Janice Heggie Margolis reported on a proposed DUI Child Endangerment bill. The bill would have enhanced response to conviction of persons who drive while intoxicated with a child in the vehicle. The bill passed the House but was not taken up by the Senate.

Linda J. Cimino reported on Public Act 13-77, An Act Concerning Notice of Investigations by the Department of Children and Families. Linda explained that the Act requires the Department of Children and Families to provide victims with the Office of Victim Services (OVS) materials when an investigation is opened.

Linda also reported on Public Act 13-166, An Act Concerning Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons. Linda explained that the Act requires OVS to make a poster outlining the services available to human trafficking victims available at certain types of truck stop locations and certain facilities that hold an on premises liquor consumption permit. Linda also explained that the Act requires OVS to review the compensation services available to sexual exploitation and human trafficking victims.

Laura Cordes reported on Public Act 13-47, An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of a Person Who is Physically Helpless or Whose Ability to Consent is Otherwise Impaired. Laura explained that the Act expands the definition of a victim being "physically helpless" to include victims that have physical and/or mental disabilities.

Laura also reported on Public Act 13-214, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Laura explained that the Act allows sexual assault victims to be released from a residential lease if they are assaulted in their apartment or on a property they rent.

5. CICF Update

Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget statement for month ending June 30, 2013.

Jim explained that total disbursements of state and federal funds to date equal \$2.8 million with \$816,000 in obligations. Jim attributed the higher percentage of obligations this year to the rise in homicide related compensation claims in which loss of support was awarded.

Jim distributed and reviewed the CICF Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Jim explained that total revenues are \$600,000 higher than anticipated, equaling \$3.3 million in total revenues. Jim also explained that court ordered donations are up by \$300,000 compared to last year, leaving a fund balance of \$1.5 million. Jim explained that the Judicial Branch will be removing \$300,000 in obligations from the CICF this year and another \$500,000 in obligations next year. These obligations are for contracted services and will be paid for with Judicial Branch general funds.

6. OVS Update

Jim distributed and reviewed the Sandy Hook Worker's Assistance Fund Quarterly Revenue and Expense Report for April 1, 2013-June 30, 2013. Jim reported that total donations received are \$204,000, with \$29,000 in total disbursements leaving a \$175,000 balance. Jim reported that a total of 52 applications were received: 15 have been approved for payment, 9 are pending, and 28 are being held due to current losses being paid by another funding source. Jim also reported that out of the 52 applications received, 25 are teachers, 14 are police officers and firefighters, and 7 are employees at the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

7. New Business

Antonia Cordero requested a discussion regarding the topics that will be addressed with the Judicial Branch court administrators during the September Council Meeting. Members discussed the strategic plan, OVS funds, and staffing.

Members also discussed the Council's term ending July 2014, as well as presentation recommendations for the upcoming year.

Linda reported that at the November Council Meeting there will be a presentation on trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder from Julia O'Sullivan, who was a victim of a home invasion.

8. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder

