

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 13, 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 3:20 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, Steven Hernandez, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, Deborah Witkin

Members Excused or Absent:

Karen Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, Robin Montgomery

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, Jean M. Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
Council members introduced themselves and welcomed new council member, Steven Hernandez.
2. Approval of the July 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 12, 2016.
The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update
Linda J. Cimino distributed and reviewed the Office of Victim Services *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 08/31/16, FY 07/01/16 – 06/30/17*. Linda reported that the appropriations total is \$3,356,000 for FY16/17. She stated that the VOCA 2013 Victim Compensation grant expires on 09/30/16 and that any unexpended balance would lapse. Linda reported there will be sufficient grant funds in the FY14 and FY15 VOCA Victim Compensation grants to meet the budget needs for the year. She stated the total disbursements to date are \$450,383 compared to \$430,000 last year at this time.

Linda distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017*. Linda reported the total amount of court collections is \$193,422 as of 07/31/16.

She stated the total number of items collected as of 07/31/16 is 1,437 compared to 1,424 items collected as of 07/31/15.

Council members expressed concern regarding the impact the reduction of per diem prosecutors will have on the amount of court collections made to the CICF which funds the OVS Victim Compensation Program.

4. Presentation: Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors
Steven Hernandez reported the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS) consists of non-partisan staff of the Connecticut General Assembly with a mandate to focus on the best interest of Connecticut's women, children, and older adults. He stated the commission's legislative priority areas are Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education for children, paid family leave for women, and aging with dignity and safety for seniors.

Susan invited Steven to report on legislative updates with regards to the CWCS at future advisory council meetings.

Steven discussed his professional background and stated he will focus on issues related to children for the council membership.

5. Presentation: Commission on Equity and Opportunity
Mui Mui Hin-McCormick distributed a PowerPoint presentation on the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO) to the council members. Mui Mui reported that on June 9, 2016 all six legislative commissions including African-American Affairs, Asian Pacific American Affairs, Aging, Children, Latino and Puerto Rican, and Permanent Commission on the Status of Women were eliminated due to state budget cuts. On June 10, 2016 the CEO was created through May Special Session, Public Act No.16-3 with the mandate to focus its efforts on quality of life for members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of Connecticut. Mui Mui discussed the goals of the CEO to the populations that it represents.

6. New Business
Judge Danaher reported that a meeting is scheduled with the Colonel who oversees the Connecticut State Police Training Academy to discuss the involvement of the Office of Victim Services in the educational curriculum to increase awareness to victim sensitivity.

Linda reported that due to the state budget cuts the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program will not expand to Region 2 and a request has been made to the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigation to reduce the

hospitals per kit reimbursement rate. In addition, she stated the SAFE Program training scheduled for Fall 2016 has been cancelled.

Susan stated that she will contact Steve Brown, Psy.D, Director, Traumatic Stress Institute of Klingberg Family Centers to present on *Trauma Informed Care Implementation* at a future council meeting. Susan asked Jean M. Weisbrod to email a link for the Traumatic Stress Institute to council members. Susan will also contact David Lawrence-Hawley, a Council member not in attendance at this meeting, who also works at Klingberg Family Centers, to let him know of the invite.

Susan stated there is an upcoming *My Avenging Angel Workshop* in October.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) CT and OVS are co-sponsoring a *Death Notification Workshop* for law enforcement in October. Janice stated that in 2015 alcohol-related fatalities increased from 97 to 105 in Connecticut.

7. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder