

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**September 15, 2020**

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

**Members in Attendance:** Co-Chair, Susan Omilian, Linda J. Cimino, Melissa Conway, Melissa Farley, Bob Garguilo, Mikayla Green, Beth Hamilton, Irene Mikol, Jessica Pizzano, Ebonie Suggs, Sharmese Walcott, Deborah Witkin, Andrew Woods

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Gerrie Wild, Yvette Young

**OVS Staff in Attendance:**

Valina Carpenter, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Guest:** Jackie Blake, Alison Chandler, James Dodington, Kyle Fisher, Jonathan Gates, Christa Green, Thomas MacLean, Steven Wolf

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and introduction of New Council Members

Linda J. Cimino opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m. Linda announced Judge Danaher, Brian Austin and Joe Bibisi are no longer members of the Advisory Council. Linda welcomed and introduced new Council Members, Sharmese Walcott and Ebonie Suggs, and members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the following meeting minutes:

- November 12, 2019 and
- February 4, 2020

Linda asked for a motion to accept the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented. Deb Witkin abstained because she was not present at the November 12, 2019 meeting.

Linda asked for a motion to accept the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. The CT Hospital Intervention Program Collaborative with presenters from CT Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital

Dr. James Dodington, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Emergency Medicine) at Yale School of Medicine, provided a PowerPoint presentation, *Connecticut Hospital Violence Intervention Program HVIP Collaborative*. The presentation included information about multidisciplinary programs, HVIP program model types, recommended staff infrastructure, national cost

effectiveness, CT Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs, VOCA funding, and the Giffords Law Center Recommendations memo.

Council Members discussed issues related to connecting patients with services, support systems to integrate programs, cost effectiveness, culture changes, and repeat assault and violence.

#### 4. OVS Updates

Linda invited Council Members to have a conversation about how the pandemic has impacted victim service delivery at the November 10, 2020 meeting.

Linda reported that OVS staff members returned to work at full capacity on Tuesday, September 8. She stated that the OVS Helpline continued to operate during the time of the shutdown and received 40 plus calls per day.

Linda stated that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) update will be reported at the November meeting and that contributions have been down because courts have been closed.

Linda reported that the SAFE Program had a decrease in the number of responses in July and August. She reported that some of the SAFEs requested a leave of absence from the Program because they were working in hospital ICUs during the height of the pandemic and slowly returning to the Program.

Susan welcomed the new members and requested that an updated Council Member Contact List be distributed.

#### 5. New Business

Susan stated that the November meeting agenda will include how COVID-19 has impacted victim service delivery.

Members discussed issues related to the Governors Executive Order allowing for remote filing of Temporary Restraining Orders and the collaboration with Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Linda stated that a CICF update would be provided at the November meeting.

Jessica Pizzano reported that Survivors of Homicide is trying to do more home visits. She reported that the on-line support groups have individuals from other states that don't offer these services joining the discussions.

Susan encouraged input from new Council Members for future agenda items.

Susan asked for an update on the 2020-2021 meeting schedule.

6. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder