

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 7, 2017

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chairs the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, and Susan Omilian; Brian Austin Jr., Antonia Cordero, Doreen Del Bianco for Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Steven Hernández, Tonya Johnson for Karen Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, Deborah Witkin

Members Excused or Absent:

Joseph W. Bibisi, Laura Cordes, Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández, Thomas J. Wydra

OVS Staff Present:

Valina Carpenter, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Judge Danaher opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the July 11 and September 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 11, 2017. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 12, 2017. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. 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 10/31/17, FY 07/01/17 - 06/30/18*. Jim reported that the total disbursements to date are \$684,030.93. He stated that payments to contracted agencies and claimants are pending and will be released when the allocation of funds from the state is received. He reported that payments are approximately \$66,000 behind last fiscal year through 10/31/17. Jim stated that payment has been made to 338 claimants between 07/01/17 - 10/31/17 compared to 341 claimants between 07/01/16 - 10/31/16.

James Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2017 - 2018*. Jim reported that court collections through 09/30/17 are approximately \$150,000 below collections as of

9/30/16. He stated that September 2017 court collections totaled \$121,300, which is the lowest monthly total in almost 5 years.

Members discussed issues related to the reduction in per-diem prosecutors and how that affects the court contributions to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.

4. State Budget and Legislative Changes Discussion

Council members discussed the state budget and the effects on the agencies that they represent.

Judge Danaher reported that the budget cuts were less to the Judicial Branch than in the past. He stated that the number of staff members is significantly decreased.

Doreen Del Bianco reported that the responsibility to provide services to juveniles who allegedly committed a delinquent act has been transferred from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Judicial Branch.

David Snyder reported that Friday, November 10, 2017, Department of Correction will begin a training class for a mixed classification of staff members.

Brian Austin and council members discussed issues related to reforms to the bail bond system and input from victims. Brian reported that the Connecticut Sentencing Commission will conduct a study on the bail bond system.

Antonia Cordero discussed issues related to the relocation of the UCONN School of Social Work. She reported the School of Social Work will offer a bachelors, masters and doctoral degree in social work beginning in the fall of 2018.

Deb Witkin reported that the funding for services for many of the clients that the CT Legal Services Association represents has been dramatically impacted especially with regard to medical services.

Steven Hernández reported that the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors now has less operating funds and will focus on issues related to human trafficking.

David Lawrence-Hawley and council members discussed issues related to providing services to families with acute needs that are uninsured or underinsured.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported that the number of arrests for driving under the influence is down due to the decrease of state police officers and per diem prosecutors. She reported that the number of alcohol-related driving fatalities was 100 in 2016 compared to 103 fatalities in 2015 in Connecticut.

Valina Carpenter reported that 3 of the 7 staff members retired or relocated since the beginning of the year were working in the OVS Victim Compensation Unit. She stated that a job opening for a Claims Examiner position was posted on the Judicial Branch Intranet.

Tonya Johnson reported on the variety of challenges related to operating with fewer staff members, less ability to do 24/7 staffing and providing services to the increasing number of domestic violence victims and their families.

5. OVS Update

Valina Carpenter reported that the CT Advisory Council for Victims of Crime will meet at least 4 times instead of the previous 6 times per year. Five meeting dates have been set for 2018 in case one needs to be cancelled.

Valina reported that the Sexual Assault Forensics Examiners (SAFE) Program met the guidelines of the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) as an approved training program.

Valina reported that *Public Act No. 17-32 An Act Concerning Human Trafficking* added additional crimes and enhanced penalties for trafficking crimes, as well as expanded the list of entities required to display notices.

Valina discussed *Public Act No. 17-99 An Act Concerning Court Operations, Victim Services, Fraudulent Filings and Transfers of an Interest in Real Property to a Trust*. She reported on a number of changes which greatly expand OVS' ability to assist victims.

6. Roundtable Discussion – How the State's Attorney's may better assist victims

Brian and council members discussed providing prosecutors with training sessions on trauma and the impact of trauma on victims and roundtable discussions with victim advocates and victim services agencies. Judge Danaher offered to conduct a training session for the prosecutors if approved by the Chief Court Administrator.

Brian and council members discussed ways to improve communication and provide victims with the information that they're entitled to. Brian and council members discussed the Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (CT SAVIN) and encouraging victims to use the system.

7. New Business

January meeting topics include a presentation by Steven Hernández on the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors.

Council members reviewed and approved the 2018 meeting schedule:

| Date | Place | Time |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| January 9, 2018 | OVS – Wethersfield | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. |
| March 13, 2018 | OVS – Wethersfield | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. |
| May 8, 2018 | OVS – Wethersfield | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. |
| September 11, 2018 | OVS – Wethersfield | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. |
| November 13, 2018 | OVS - Wethersfield | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. |

8. Adjournment

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

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder