

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**November 15, 2011**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Joseph Bibisi, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Kimberly Joyner, Kevin Lawlor, Daniel F. Lewis, Robin Montgomery, Susan Omilian, Rocco Tricarico, and Jan VanTassel

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Antonia Cordero, Chester Brodnicki, and Karen Jarmoc

**OVS Staff Present:**

Linda J. Cimino, Tina Bouchard, Valina Carpenter, Brenda Jordan, James Morgan, and Katie Nesta

**Guest:**

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed members.
  
2. Approval of the September 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes  
Judge Carroll asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 20, 2011. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.  
  
Linda Cimino addressed members regarding a request made by Steve Eppler-Epstein summarized on page 2 of the September 20, 2011, minutes. Steve requested an estimated date as to when approved claims will not be paid. Linda reported that it is too soon to anticipate an estimated date.
  
3. OVS Updates  
CICF Updates:  
Jim Morgan reported that the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Stamford, has been added as a new contractor and will be creating a Spanish language website for victims of domestic violence. Jim also reported that 3

new contractors are part of the Counseling Assistance to Homicide Survivors Program. The contractors are Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford, Family Centers, Inc., and United Services, Inc.

Jim also reported that the U.S. Department of Justice is prohibiting the use of federal funds for food at conferences.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget Statement for month ending 10/31/11. Jim reported that there is \$3.1 million available expenditures. To date, a total of \$821,000 was spent with \$513,000 pending expenses. Jim explained that it is too soon in the year to determine if there are sufficient funds in the OVS budget for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program for the remainder of the year. We will have an updated projection at the next Council meeting based upon activity through December.

Jim also distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Jim reported that there are \$765,000 total revenues through 10/31/11. Jim explained the totals for court ordered donations and fees only reflect until the end of September. Jim also reported that there are a total of \$1 million total expenses with a \$1.7 million fund balance.

Jim explained that due to recent budget issues at the State level, all state funded grant payments to contractors for services to crime victims are now being paid for out of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund instead of Judicial Branch general funds. Future payments to contractors could be impacted if deposits into the fund are insufficient to meet budgeted needs. If this occurs, contractors will be notified of reductions at the start of the fiscal year.

#### Unit Update:

Tina Bouchard reported on the "Social Networking: Changing the Rules" conference that was held on September 27, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. There were a total of 206 attendees, including 109 advocates, 64 police officers, and 33 prosecutors. Out of the 206 total attendees, 116 evaluations were returned. Tina explained the evaluations had high satisfaction scores and read a few comments. Tina provided members with packets from the conference.

Valina Carpenter explained how attending the conference has already helped her in assisting a Helpline caller.

Brenda Jordan reported that the Compensation Program brochure, the sexual assault informational booklet, and the notification of victim rights form have been revised for plain language and will be translated in

Spanish. A plain language version of the crime victims' Constitutional rights was developed and will be inserted in the all service brochure.

Brenda thanked members for their help revising the Compensation Program survey and provided the following statistics:

- 22% of surveys were returned in the fourth quarter.
- 88% of claimants were satisfied with the claims examiners.
- 24% of claimants rated the claims examiners as a strength of the program.
- 16% of claimants rated the program itself as a strength.
- 75% of claimants were satisfied with the program overall.

Linda reported that the biennial report due to legislature January 15, 2012, will be electronic and provided to members in January.

Linda also reported that OVS had a few staffing changes. Katie Nesta has moved from administrative support to special projects and the Compensation Unit now has 4 claims examiners.

4. Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program (SAFE) Update

Denise reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been a total of 146 cases among the 6 participating hospitals. There are a total of 16 SAFEs participating in the Program with 10 actively precepting. A fourth class of 5 nurses just completed the SAFE course at Quinnipiac University, making a total of 30 SAFEs participating in the Program.

Denise also reported on various Program updates and trainings including, a Trauma Coordinators meeting at the Connecticut Hospital Association and at ASCEND, an annual education event held by the Emergency Nurse Association.

Members discussed expansion of the SAFE Program outside of the 6 participating hospitals and the importance of the Program.

Denise reported that all of the SAFEs were trained on the SDFI equipment. Denise demonstrated the SDFI camera for members.

Members discussed continuation of the Program beyond the grant period.

Laura Cordes reported that the SAFE Program follow-up surveys rolled out October 1, 2011. Since October 2 surveys were returned. Data from the surveys rank SAFEs and advocates high, however police had lower scores.

5. Hospital Reimbursement for Sexual Assault Exams  
This agenda item was not discussed.

6. Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Update  
Linda reported that there is an average of 993 people registering for notification each month, and the call rate is 8 calls for 1 confirmation.

Linda also reported that due to issues of misuse, the Judicial Branch Legal Services is working on a disclaimer.

7. New Business  
Janice Heggie Margolis reported that Connecticut is now the 15<sup>th</sup> state to have the alcohol ignition interlock device mandatory for all repeat offenders. Janice provided a handout outlining the new Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device laws.

Members discussed fees for the device.

Robin Montgomery reported that he is a member of the Task Force on Domestic Violence and Law Enforcement, created by the legislature earlier this year to develop a state-wide model policy for use by law enforcement agencies when responding to incidents of family violence and violations of protective orders. Robin explained that the committee will be reviewing statistical data collected from police, prosecutors, the Department of Public Safety, and advocates.

8. Adjournment  
Judge Carroll adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder