

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
January 9, 2018

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 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chairs the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, and Susan Omilian; Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Laura Cordes, Doreen Del Bianco for Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Steven Hernández, Karen Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, Kristan Mangiafico and David Snyder for Karen Martucci

Members Excused or Absent:

Antonia Cordero, Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández, Deborah Witkin, Thomas J. Wydra

OVS Staff Present:

Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

Guest:

Jillian Gilchrest, Chair of the Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Judge Danaher opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Council members introduced themselves and welcomed Kristan Mangiafico of the CT Department of Correction, Victim Services Unit. David Snyder announced that he accepted a new position with the Department of Correction and that Kristan will now attend Council meetings to represent the Department of Correction.
2. Approval of the November 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 7, 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 12/31/17, FY 07/01/17 - 06/30/18*. Jim reported that the total disbursements through 12/31/17 are \$1,078,908.75. He reported this amount is \$165,927 less than the amount of disbursements through 12/31/16 due to held payments to contracted agencies. He stated that the CICF allocation was released on 12/22/17 and purchase orders are being amended so that the payments to the contracted agencies can be processed.

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 11/30/17 are approximately \$197,000 below collections as of 11/30/16. He stated that the increases in activity in the Rockville Superior Court

have been offset by decreases in activities in the New Britain Superior Court throughout October and November 2017.

Brian discussed with the council members the Regionalized Adjudication Infraction Program (RAIP) and will inquire about the decline in court contributions and will report the findings to the council at the next meeting.

4. State Budget and Legislative Changes Discussion

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

Doreen Del Bianco reported that no decisions have been made yet as to what will happen with the state appropriations.

Karen Jarmoc reported on the variety of challenges related to operating domestic violence programs with fewer staff members. Karen stated that a task force of staff and executive directors will be surveying victims and survivors to learn how victims are accessing services and the best ways to serve victims.

Steven Hernández reported that the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors lost 3 staff members in 3 months for more stable employment. He stated the Commission will continue to work its' agenda but more voices are needed.

Council members discussed issues related to sexual harassment policies in state government.

Brian Austin reported there are 62 staff vacancies on all levels within the Division. Brian stated that 25 of the most critical positions have been identified, and that the distribution of specialty work may be assigned to local Judicial Districts.

David Lawrence-Hawley reported on the loss of clinicians and programs for trauma services which is eroding services to clients.

David Snyder reported that there are still 130 inmates at the Enfield facility. David stated that staff members are being reallocated across the state and many senior and administration staff members are reaching retirement eligibility. He also stated there is a class of 120 mixed classification positions in training now.

Laura Cordes stated that the spotlight is on sexual violence with services to victims up 20% over the past year. She stated there is a focus on the sexual violence prevention programs.

Judge Danaher and David Snyder discussed with council members issues related to the Treatment Pathway Program, a diversionary drug treatment program, and a medication assisted program for drug treatment of offenders.

Joseph Bibisi reported that as a private practice attorney he finds it difficult to move a case through the judicial process due to a lack of staff in the courthouses.

5. OVS Update

Linda Cimino reported that:

- The Office of Victim Services Biennial Activities Report for October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2017 was released today.
- The Compensation Program Unit received 967 applications with almost 1,200 claimants throughout 2017, which is the highest amount in 5 years.
- On February 2, 2018, a new claim examiner will join the Compensation Unit.
- Issues related to training medical professionals not in the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program are now being addressed. Also the RFQ has been published soliciting a Forensic Nurse Consultant, and closes on 1/30/18.
- The Training and Outreach Unit is providing additional victim compensation benefits training to contracted service agencies due to Public Act 17–99.

6. Presentation: Human Trafficking in Connecticut

Jillian Gilchrest, Chair of Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council, distributed and provided a presentation on *Human Trafficking in Connecticut*.

Jillian discussed with council members issues related to conflicts between federal and state laws, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, new training requirements and plan development, signage requirements, statewide needs assessment, and the End Demand CT 3 Year Plan.

7. New Business

March meeting topics include a presentation or discussion on Vicarious Trauma.

Linda stated that the 2014-2018 term for council membership ends in May 2018. She will be in contact with members regarding council membership for the 2018-2022 term.

8. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder