

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
January 13, 2015

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room, 4B, from 2:05 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Karen Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, Robin Montgomery, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, and Deborah Witkin.

OVS Staff and Guests Present:

Linda Cimino, Brenda Jordan, James Morgan, Valina Carpenter, and Jean Weisbrod.

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Susan asked members to explain their role on the Council and describe the work of their respective agencies. Members introduced themselves and provided information.

2. Approval of the November 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2014. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

Susan requested that members be emailed a copy of the 2014 Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime.

3. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 12/31/14, FY 07/01/14 – 06/30/15*. Jim reported that the total amount of disbursements to date is \$1.2 million compared to last year's amount at this time of \$1.6 million.

Linda reported there was a 10% decrease in the amount of applications received since 2013, and the OVS Training and Outreach Unit will be implementing an outreach campaign to raise awareness about the services provided by the agency. Susan suggested that members use

their agency newsletters to help spread awareness and provide community outreach.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152), Fiscal Year 2014-2015*. Jim reported that as of November 30, 2014, the gross amount collected is \$845,501. He stated that this amount is \$70,000 higher than last year.

Brian Austin reported that there was a presentation on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund provided at a Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney meeting explaining that contributions to the CICF may be an option to dispose of a case.

Brian stated he had a conversation with the supervisory assistant state's attorney at the Norwalk Superior Court, GA 20, regarding the lack of CICF contributions from this court. Based on that conversation, Brian is hopeful that contributions will be ordered.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Sandy Hook Workers' Assistance Fund FY 2013 – 2014 Quarterly Report Summary April 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014*. Jim reported there have been no donations received since April with currently 2 active claims. Jim stated the deadline for claims payment is August 31, 2015.

Judge Danaher inquired on the Hartford Courant article of December 17, 2014, written by Dave Altimari, titled "*Sandy Hook Two Years Later: Where Is The Aid Going?*" Members discussed the article. Linda requested the link to the article be emailed to the Council members.

4. Presentation: Department of Correction Victim Services Unit
David Snyder presented on the Department of Correction (DOC), Victim Services Unit. He distributed the DOC Victim Services Unit Information pamphlet and templates of the victim notification letters. David explained the notification process and the various letter templates used to notify victims of an inmate's status. He emphasized the significance of a victim impact statement. Council members discussed language barriers and confidentiality issues.
5. Presentation: Restraining Order Task Force Report
Karen Jarmoc distributed and presented on the *Task Force to Study Service of Restraining Orders, Findings and Recommendations, A Report to the Connecticut General Assembly*, submitted to the Judiciary Committee pursuant to Public Act 14-217 Section 121, January 2015. She reviewed the findings and recommendations related to the Access, Communications and Practice sections in the report. Karen reported on

the issues related to the service of civil protection orders to respondents. Members discussed the findings of the report.

6. OVS Program Updates

Valina Carpenter provided an update on Public Act 14-217, which allows victims of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and stalking to apply for a civil protection order. She distributed and reviewed the Civil Protection Order Information Form, JD-CV-148. Valina explained this form was created by the Judicial Branch to help the applicant determine if they are eligible for a civil protection order and to explain the process. She also explained the role and responsibilities of the 10 newly hired victim services advocates assigned to the civil courts across the state.

Valina reported since January 2, 2015, there have been 19 applications received for a civil protection order. OVS and the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) are working together regarding publicity of the availability of these orders, as well as training that will be offered to the police departments and court staff. Susan suggested that attorneys be offered training. Linda added that the civil protection orders would be viewable in Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (CT SAVIN) system in April 2015.

7. New Business

Judge Danaher invited members to email him training topics related to victim issues for proposal to the Judicial Education Committee who will be meeting in September 2015. The training sessions will be 10 to 15 minutes in length to be presented at the 2016 Judge's Institute.

Susan stated that the March Council meeting agenda should include legislative updates by Council members and the following presentations:

- CT SAVIN presented by Linda Cimino
- Sexual assault on college campuses and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), specifically related to an inmate's access to a sexual assault advocate presented by Laura Cordes

8. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Jean Weisbrod, Recorder