

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
January 19, 2010

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, from 2:04 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Fernando Betancourt, Joseph Bibisi, Larry Bostrom, Chester Brodnicki, Cheryl Burack, Janice Heggie Margolis, Nancy Kushins, Erika Tindill, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, John Duffey, Kevin Lawlor, Jo-Ann Miller, and Neil O'Leary

OVS Staff Present:

James Morgan, Valina Carpenter, and Brenda Jordan

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the Minutes from the November 17, 2009 Meeting
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 17, 2009. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Discussion – Victim Notification in the Release of Appellate Court and Supreme Court Decisions
Steve amended the agenda tabling the discussion to a future meeting as this agenda item was introduced by Kevin Lawlor, who was unable to attend the meeting.
4. Presentation – The Role of Victim Advocacy in Sex Offender Supervision
Tina Greaves, director of Victim Advocacy, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services and Jose Aparicio, probation officer, Hartford Sex Offender Supervision Unit, provided a presentation entitled *The Evolution and Role of the Sex Offender Supervision Unit Victim Advocate*. [OVS provides the funding for the advocate program.]

Steve suggested a follow-up presentation on sexual offender re-entry housing related issues to be provided at a future meeting. Members agreed. Steve stated that he would speak with Linda Cimino on organizing the presentation.

5. OVS Update

Jim Morgan reported on the following:

- A meeting was held with the vendor Appriss to discuss Phase I of the Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification (SAVIN) program, which is expected to launch in June 2010. The vendor also issued the toll-free telephone number (1-877-VINE4CT) and provided sample promotional items that will be tailored to OVS.
- A Request for Proposal was issued for a program coordinator for the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) program that closes January 21, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. The SAFE Committee has selected hospital sites to pilot the program and has begun drafting a Memorandum of Agreement. Discussions with the Purchasing Department on a Training RFP have also begun.
- The 2007-2009 OVS Biennial Report was distributed.
- OVS is expecting a 10 to 12 percent increase in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. The Office of Victims of Crime held a meeting last week that Jim attended with other VOCA administrators to discuss revisions to guidelines and to promote open dialogue.
- The Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 12/31/09 was distributed and reviewed.
- The victim satisfaction survey three-month pilot ends in January 2010. The survey results have been positive.
- The victim services advocates (VSA) received training on social networking and Internet safety in December and will receive training from the Sex Offender Registry program in February.
- OVS staff provided trainings to Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services of New Britain and Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence staff, Judicial Marshals, and residents of the Senior Center, Waterbury, in addition to hosting an informational table at the Naugatuck Valley Community College Career Fair. OVS staff will provide trainings to the West Hartford Squires Club and Juvenile Probation in January, as well as a serve as a guest speaker on a Farmington radio show.

6. New Business

No new business was introduced.

7. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder