

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
February 5, 2019

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Judge Danaher, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin Jr., Melissa Farley, Bob Garguilo, Beth Hamilton, Kristan Mangiafico, Jessica Pizzano, Josie Robles, Gerrie Wild, Andrew Woods, Yvette Young

Members Excused or Absent:

Joseph W. Bibisi, David Lawrence-Hawley, Deborah Witkin

OVS Staff Present:

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Judge Danaher called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members introduced themselves. New council members, Bob Garguilo, Andrew Woods, and Beth Hamilton, explained the services that their agencies provide to victims of crime.

Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 13, 2018. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

Susan Omilian and Judge Danaher reviewed the charge of the Advisory Council according to General Statutes § 54-203 (b) (9).

2. Legislative Updates and Review

Melissa Farley reported on Raised Bill No. 796, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. Melissa stated that Linda Cimino testified before the Public Health Committee and answered questions from the legislators yesterday.

Linda J. Cimino reported on Raised Bill No. 796 which includes recommendations to the certification process for individuals qualified to participate as sexual assault forensic examiners, continuing education requirements, and quality assurance measures to ensure the needs of victims of sexual assault are met. Linda distributed a copy of the raised bill to council members.

Kristan Mangiafico reported on the designated Commissioner of the Department of Correction, Rollin Cook of Utah, whose Public Hearing will be held February 7, 2019. Kristan also reported that the Victim Services Unit processed 150 registrations for the victim notification program last month. She stated that there is a need to educate victims and their families of the need to register with both OVS and DOC notification programs to in order to be fully informed.

Beth Hamilton reported on *Give Victims Time*, a campaign to eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual assault survivors. In addition, Beth discussed the gaps in the laws regarding spousal sexual assault and the need for uniform standards.

3. OVS Compensation Program Overview

Linda Cimino provided a presentation on the Victim Compensation Program. Council members discussed issues related to reasons why claims were denied, claims approved without pay, and structured settlements.

4. OVS Report

a) Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Report

James Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 01/31/2019, FY 07/01/18 – 06/30/19*. Jim reported that expenses through 01/31/2019 are approximately \$200,000 higher than 01/31/18 however sufficient federal grant funds are available to absorb the increase. Jim stated that through 01/31/2019 payments have been processed to 533 claimants compared to 511 claimants through 01/31/2018.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2018 – 2019*. Jim reported that as of 12/31/2018 court collections are \$50,000 below FY 2017 – 2018 through 12/31/2017. Jim stated that court collections are \$270,000 below FY 2016 – 2017 through 12/31/2016.

Jim also distributed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2018 – 2019* with monthly comparisons of court contributions.

Council members discussed issues related to the Regionalized Adjudication Infraction Program (RAIP) and court contributions.

b) OVS Update

Linda Cimino reported:

The SAFE Program has seven new nurses following the fall 2018 training class and the spring 2019 training class will begin at the end of March. There have been 133 responses since 07/01/18 – 01/31/19.

The Compensation Program Unit has received 132 applications since 01/01/19 which is equally comparable to the amount of applications received in 01/01/18.

Two victim services advocates have retired since 01/01/19.

The CT SAVIN program will introduce Enhanced VINE which will be available 08/01/19.

5. New Business

Deb Witkin will present at the April 16, 2019, meeting about CT Legal Services, in particular, the <https://ctlawhelp.org/en/home> website that provides legal information to consumers. Deb will also discuss the legal work specifically being done on domestic violence/sexual assault victim issues.

6. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder