

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
March 8, 2016

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 3:25 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

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

Members Excused or Absent:

Laura Cordes, David Lawrence-Hawley, Robin Montgomery

OVS Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Emmeline Pappas, University of Connecticut student intern

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members and guests introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the January 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2016. Judge John A. Danaher III and Janice Heggie Margolis abstained. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
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 02/29/16, FY 07/01/15 – 06/30/16*. Jim reported that \$1.4 million has been expended through February which is less than half of the budget and the same as last year at this time. He noted that the number of claimants has increased but the claim payment amount is less than last year.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152), Fiscal Year 2015-2016*. Jim reported

that \$1.3 million has been collected which is an 8% increase compared to last January.

4. Presentation: *Risk Reduction Earned Credits (RREC) Program*
David Snyder distributed and reviewed the *Risk Reduction Earned Credit Grid* and *Risk Reduction Earned Credit Rules*.

David explained an inmate may be eligible to receive a maximum of 60 days a year of RREC, if certain criteria are met and verified by classification staff.

Council members discussed the RREC program.

David reported that victim notification letters contain information about the RREC program. He stated that training on the RREC Program has been provided to OVS victim services advocates and other victim advocate agencies as well as information being posted on the Department of Correction website.

5. Presentation: *Trauma Informed Care Initiatives in Connecticut and Other Select States*:

Susan Omilian distributed:

- *Joint Juvenile Strategic Plan for FY 2013 – FY 2016*, State of Connecticut Judicial Branch and Department of Children and Families;
- *The Development of Trauma Informed Systems of Care in Child Welfare “Seeing Through a Trauma Lens”*;
- *Advancing Trauma-Informed Systems for Children*, IMPACT, a publication of the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, September 2015;
- *Integrating a Trauma-Informed Response in Violence Against Women and Human Trafficking Prosecutions*, Strategies, The Prosecutors’ Newsletter on Violence Against Women, Issue #13, February 2015; and
- *Adverse Childhood Experiences in Connecticut*, Connecticut Department of Public Health, Connecticut Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Spring, 2013;

Susan distributed and reviewed a presentation on *Trauma-Informed Services, Connecticut and Select States*.

Council members discussed their efforts to provide trauma-informed care and services at their agencies. Judge Danaher suggested finding ways to provide trauma-informed services or assistance for jurors. Melissa Farley provided an example of how this was done following a particular trial in which the Employee Assistance Program was made available to court

staff and jurors. Karen Jarmoc stated that trauma-informed services are part of the standards at Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Valina Carpenter reported that OVS provides training to staff members on trauma-informed services and that it's built into the everyday practice.

6. OVS Updates

Linda reported that Chester Brodnicki has resigned from the Advisory Council for Victims of Crime. Linda stated that the Chief Justice will appoint a replacement council member.

Linda reported that in recognition of the Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program 5th anniversary, an event was held January 26, 2016, at the Legislative Office Building. Approximately, 80 guests attended the celebration. Linda stated the SAFE Program anniversary event can be viewed on Connecticut Network (CT-N).

Linda reported that the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) Link system will deploy a new look tomorrow. She stated that the new contract with VINE Link has no additional charge however an update will need to be completed to VINE Link III in 2017-2018. The cost will be \$400,000 and the Office of Victim Services has funds appropriated to cover this expense. David Snyder reported 5000 new registrants for VINE Link through the Department of Correction last month.

Linda announced that OVS will be creating informational videos with grant funds which will be produced by Middlesex Community College.

Susan Omilian requested that OVS provide statistical data on which type and the number of cases that are handled by their victim service advocates.

Jim reported that the Judicial Branch has issued a request for proposals for the Counseling to Families of Homicide Victims Program for services starting July 1, 2016. Responses are due April 5, 2016. The Program has been expanded from 10 free counseling sessions per victim to 10 free counseling sessions per eligible family member.

7. New Business

May meeting topics include a presentation on trauma-informed services by Jeanne Fusco, Executive Director of Susan B. Anthony Project, Torrington, CT, and a round-table discussion about the proposed state budget, and how it will affect victim service agencies.

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

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder