

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
March 16, 2010

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, from 2:09 p.m. to 4:01 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Larry Bostrom, Chester Brodnicki, Janice Heggie Margolis, Nancy Kushins, and Kevin Lawlor

Members Excused or Absent:

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Fernando Betancourt, Joseph Bibisi, Cheryl Burack, John Duffey, Jo-Ann Miller, Neil O'Leary, Erika Tindill, and Jan VanTassel

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, and Brenda Jordan

Guest:

Shirley Bostrom

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and welcomed members.

The OVS Letter Review Committee recognized and thanked Larry and Shirley Bostrom for their assistance in reviewing OVS Victim Services Unit correspondence to ensure that the language is clear, respectful, and supportive to crime victims.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the January 19, 2010 Meeting

Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 19, 2010. 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

Kevin Lawlor stated that there have been victim complaints that advance notice is not provided to victims prior to the public release of Appellate court decisions.

Linda stated that the Office of the Victim Advocate brought this issue to the Judicial Branch Chief Justice several months ago and that meetings among Judicial Branch staff have been held to discuss the matter. OVS also

discussed this issue with the chief clerk of the Appellate Division to determine if the OVS Central Office victim services advocate could receive notification. For various reasons, including OVS in the pre-decision release notification is not possible at this time.

Linda added that the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) program will provide this notification, but the notification will not be in real-time.

Members discussed which agency might provide notification, what measure should be used to maintain accurate victim notification contact information, and providing the decision to the state's attorney prior to public release.

Linda stated that she would share the discussion with Deputy Chief Court Administrator, the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, and provide an update via e-mail to Council members.

4. Presentation – Dispute Settlement Center, Inc., presented by Dorothy D. Adams, Executive Director
Executive Director Dorothy D. Adams and Director Lisa McKenna of Dispute Settlement Center provided a presentation entitled *Victim-Offender Dialogue*.

5. OVS Update
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending February 28, 2010. Jim stated that at the end of February, ninety-one percent of the budget has been spent or committed. Although the budget is in a better financial position than last fiscal year, which is due to an increase in federal money, the budget will be fully spent or committed by the end of March. Jim added that the federal awards for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 have not yet been released.

Jim also distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Estimated Statement of Financial Position State Fiscal Years 2009-2011, the CICF Summary of Revenue Fiscal Year 2009-2010, and the summary of CICF Contributions for fiscal year 2009-2010. Jim stated the court collections have decreased in comparison to FY 2008-2009 collections.

Steve recommended that the Council continue to receive updates on the CICF position. Linda responded that an update would be provided at every meeting.

Linda reported that a federal recovery grant: Violence Against Women Act (VOWA) in the amount \$350,000 was received to implement the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners program. Two Requests for Proposals (RFP) were issued to solicit applicants for a program coordinator position but neither RFPs netted qualified applicants. A Request for Qualifications will be issued for a program coordinator, a clinical coordinator, a trainer, and sexual assault nurse examiners.

6. New Business

No new business was introduced.

7. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder