

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**March 17, 2009**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:52 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

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

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Fernando Betancourt, Joseph Bibisi, Cheryl Burack, John Duffey, and Neil O'Leary

**OVS Staff Present:**

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Rachel McKnight, and Brenda Jordan

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Steve welcomed Erika Tindill, the new executive director of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence to the Council. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the January 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes  
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 27, 2009. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented with an abstention from Erika Tindill.
3. OVS Update  
Linda Cimino reported on the following:
  - The Connecticut sexual assault brochure will be printed soon and distributed to hospitals and sexual assault programs.
  - The fifteen-minute meetings with the director were held in the beginning of March; Linda met with forty-six staff and received helpful feedback. A summary will be provided to OVS staff in June and Council members in July.
  - The objectives and associated tasks for the OVS strategic plan are almost completed.
  - A payroll stuffer focusing on OVS's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be distributed with the April 9, 2009 payroll checks.

- OVS has provided or will provide trainings at two Police Officer Standards Trainings (POST), Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Court Support Services Division Probation Unit. In addition to, providing resource tables at Hartford Hospital Resource Fair, Guilford Family Services, Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving Annual Walk-a-thon.

Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed a report entitled *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 2/28/09*. Jim stated that at the end of February there was shortfall of \$176,000 and projecting that at the end of June, obligations and expenses will exceed allocation by 1.2 million.

Jim reported that OVS would receive additional funding (\$280,000 Compensation Grant and \$732,000 Assistance Grant) under the federal stimulus bill. As a result, OVS contractors will receive a one-time increase of sixteen percent. The grants have the same provisions as the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grants, except in reporting time and performance measurement. Quarterly reports on stimulus funding are due the tenth of the month after the end of each quarter and performance activity must include the estimated number of jobs created and retained and the percentage of essential services maintained without interruption.

Steve inquired on the governor's or any other proposals that would affect the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF). Linda responded that the governor's bill requests \$3 million to be removed from the CICF balance for state fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and the Deficit Mitigation Plan for 2009 removes \$1 million from the CICF. The Judicial Branch Budget and Planning Unit received an inquiry from the Office of Fiscal Analysis regarding transferring an additional \$783,598 from the CICF balance.

Members discussed the impact to crime victims, the Compensation Program, and the CICF. Linda stated that when the proposal becomes clearer, an e-mail would be sent to Council members.

#### 4. 2009 Legislative Initiatives

Larry Bostrom reported that Survivors of Homicide are supporting two bills related to firearms: micro-stamping and prohibiting the transfer of automatic weapons to minors, and legislation on restructuring habeas corpus.

Kevin Lawlor reported that there are potential issues with legislation proposed by the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) relating to sexual assault continuances and that the Chief State's Attorney's office is attempting to work with the OVA.

Chet Brodnicki reported on legislation concerning licensure of clinical social workers; the bill would allow individuals who earned a master's in social work degree to obtain licensing immediately following graduation.

Nancy Kushins reported that Connecticut Sexual Assault Services (CONNSACS ) provided testimony opposing a bill that provides notification to the superintendent of schools when a sex offender is released in the school's district, and submitted testimony supporting a bill that requires the Risk Assessment Board to recommend changes for the sex offender registry; and a bill that establishes a sex offender registry board. Nancy also reported that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and in recognition CONNSACS plans to debut on its website a two-minute video of a survivor speaking.

Linda reported that the Judicial Branch submitted legislation proposing victim notification in appellate court hearings, but a non-legislative solution may have been found.

Erika Tindill reported that Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is supporting a cyber stalking bill, testified on H.B. 6681 regarding restraining orders served by state marshals, and will testify on funding for legal services. Erika also reported that on March 19, 2009, CCADV would host Domestic Violence Awareness Day at the Capitol to educate legislators about domestic violence services.

Steve reported that the Connecticut Bar Association's House of Delegates voted to support funding for legal services, with the funding to be derived from an assortment of funding sources. Steve also reported on draft legislation that would help protect paying tenants impacted by foreclosures.

5. Review of Programs Funded by OVS and the Impact for Crime Victims  
Jim Morgan and Linda provided a PowerPoint presentation on OVS funding.
6. New Business  
No new business was introduced.
7. Adjournment  
Steve called for a motion to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder