

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
March 20, 2012

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 2:07 p.m. to 3:52 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Kimberly Joyner, Kevin Lawlor, Susan Omilian, Rocco Tricarico, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Antonia Cordero, Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, and Brian Moore

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, and Katie Nesta

Guests:

Joanne DiPlacido, PH.D, of Connecticut State University and Krystal Rich, B.A., of Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS)

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the January 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Judge Carroll asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 17, 2012. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. OVS Updates
Jim Morgan reported that the Office of Victim Services (OVS) has not yet received the FFY 2012 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award due to federal issues and that funding for victim assistance grants may be reduced by 12% equaling \$630,000.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget Statement for month ending 02/29/12. Jim reported that current expenditures and obligations are in good shape equaling 70% of the budget.

Linda Cimino reported that the OVS victim services advocate from the Fairfield Judicial District has retired.

Linda reported that due to a federal enhancement grant the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Web site's home page will be translated into Spanish and notifications will be provided in Polish in May 2012 and Portuguese in November 2012.

Linda also reported on various issues that have arisen while implementing phase two of SAVIN.

Linda reported that the number of compensation applications are down compared to past years. Linda explained that OVS has set up an Outreach Committee to raise awareness about the Compensation Program. An update will be provided in May.

Linda addressed a question that Steve Eppler-Epstein had from the January 17, 2012, Council meeting regarding a decline in the number of compromised claims from the Compensation Unit's first quarter statistics for fiscal year 2011-2012. Linda explained that the number of compromised claims are low because more claimants are hiring attorneys to represent them on their compensation applications. OVS does not negotiate compromise claims when an attorney is on file.

Linda reported that Jim has created a new report comparing the age, gender, and ethnicity of victims that use compensation assistance versus victims that use contractor services and provided the following statistics:

- 75% of the victims that use contractor services are female.
- 59% of the victims that use compensation assistance are male.
- 9.3% of victims that use contractor services are age 0-17.
- 8.7% of victims that use compensation assistance are age 0-17.

Linda also reported that hospitals were reimbursed for 570 sexual assault forensic examination kits totaling \$450,000. Linda explained that the allocation for reimbursement of sexual assault forensic examination kits will run out by the end of this month, leaving bills submitted after March unpaid until July. Linda explained that it is possible the reimbursement amount would have to be reduced from \$900 to \$725 per kit to maintain the funds integrity.

Linda reported that the Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) equipment is currently in use at the participating hospitals and 93% of victims consented to having pictures taken.

4. Interpersonal/Sexual Violence and Mental Health Issues among University Students

Joanne DiPlacido, PH.D, and Krystal Rich, B.A. provided a presentation consisting of results from a survey they conducted among 2,900 students from Central Connecticut State University.

5. 2012 Legislative Session

Janice Heggie Margolis reported on considering a revision to the conditions for a third DUI conviction.

Kevin Lawlor reported on House Bill No. 279, An Act Concerning Sentence Modification. The act would allow a sentenced person to request a review and modification of his or her sentence regardless of whether or not the state's attorney agrees to such review.

Judge Carroll reported on H.B. No. 446, An Act Concerning the Amount of Bond that May be Set for Misdemeanor and Violation Offenses. The act would establish a \$5,000 limitation on the amount of bond with surety unless the court makes specific findings as to why a greater amount is necessary.

Linda reported on H.B. No. 5365, An Act Concerning Court Operations and Victim Services. The act would make victim compensation available to sexual assault victims who do not report to police but disclose the sexual assault to a specific provider.

Linda also reported on H.B. No. 5548, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence. The act would make victim compensation available to children who have witnessed domestic violence including children who are not related to the victim.

Laura Cordes reported on H.B. No. 5031, An Act Concerning Sexual Violence on College Campuses. The act would mandate a sexual assault policy as well as prevention and awareness education for faculty and students.

Per members request Information regarding H.B. 446 and H.B. 5031 will be e-mailed.

6. New Business

Linda asked members if they would be interested in a presentation to be provided by Mary and Frank Fetchet, the founding directors of "Voices of September 11th", who lost their son in the 9/11 tragedy. The presentation will be put on the agenda for the Council meeting in May or November.

7. Adjournment
Judge Carroll adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder