

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
May 18, 2010

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, from 2:09 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Linda Blozie for Erika Tindill, Larry Bostrom, Chester Brodnicki, Cheryl Burack, Janice Heggie Margolis, Nancy Kushins, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Fernando Betancourt, John Duffey, Kevin Lawlor, Jo-Ann Miller, and Neil O'Leary

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino and Brenda Jordan

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves to Linda Blozie.
2. Approval of the Minutes from the March 16, 2010 Meeting
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 16, 2010. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented with an abstention from Jan VanTassel.
3. Legislative Updates
Steve reported that as part of the budget agreement restoring key parts of the Judicial Branch's budget cuts, Legal Services will receive the funding appropriated through the Branch for the next fiscal year.

Nancy Kushins reported that House Bill (HB) 5533, An Act Concerning Sexting, which reduces the punishment for teens that sext from a felony to a misdemeanor charge, was passed by the House and Senate. Nancy also reported that the following bills did not pass:

- ◆ HB 5473, An Act Concerning Actions to Recover Damages for the Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation or Sexual Assault of a Minor;
- ◆ Senate Bill (SB) 63, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees; and
- ◆ SB 315, An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of Persons Whose Ability to Communicate Lack of Consent is Substantially Impaired.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported that legislation passed that requires offenders ordered to install an ignition interlock device to pay the commissioner a one hundred dollar fee. Janice also reported that HB 5485, An Act Concerning the Office of the Victim Advocate, which directed the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) Advisory Committee to evaluate the OVA, did not pass.

Members discussed the enforcement mechanisms in place for ignition interlock devices.

Linda Blozie reported on the passage of three domestic violence bills:

- ◆ HB 5246, An Act Concerning the Protection of, and Services for, Victims of Domestic Violence, distributes marriage license surcharges annually for shelter services.
- ◆ HB 5497, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Speaker of the House of Representatives' Task Force on Domestic Violence, includes the establishment of a pilot program for electronic monitoring of family violence offenders, changes the name of standing criminal restraining order to standing criminal protective order, allows the Judicial Branch to establish domestic violence dockets in three Geographical Area courts, and allows family violence victims to take off from work to deal with family violence issues.
- ◆ HB 5315, An Act Concerning Education and the Reduction of Domestic Violence, provides teacher in-service trainings on teen dating violence and domestic violence.

Linda also reported that partial funding was allocated towards 24/7 staffing at domestic violence shelters.

Members discussed the pilot program for electronic monitoring of family violence offenders. Linda Cimino suggested that as the program develops, a presentation could be provided to Council members.

Larry Bostrom reported that HB 5502, An Act Concerning Habeas Corpus Reform, did not pass.

Jan VanTassel reported that she worked on a number of issues, including the development of new models to provide supportive housing for low-income, homeless individuals and families with disabilities and maintaining access to medications.

Linda Cimino reported on the following legislation:

- ◆ HB 5539 – An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Powers and Procedures, recognizes OVS victims services advocates as Judicial Branch employees, gives the Compensation Program the ability to use funds recovered in the next fiscal year, repeals the Compensation Program loan

provision, and clarifies that requests for emergency awards are expedited through the process and not immediately paid.

4. Compensation Program Updates

Linda Cimino distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 4/30/10 – FY 07/01/09 – 06/30/10 and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Summary of Revenue Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Members discussed the decline in revenue, the monies that were transferred from the CICF to the state general fund as a result of the deficit mitigation plan, and the funding concerns for fiscal year 2012.

Linda stated that she will meet with Judicial Branch administrators to discuss the CICF. Steve requested that Linda provide an update to the Council at the next meeting.

5. Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Pilot Program

Linda Cimino reported that the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Advisory Committee selected six hospitals to serve in the pilot program: Hartford Hospital, the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Manchester Memorial Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, St. Francis Care, and Windham Hospital.

SAFE Advisory Committee members and other invited guests attended a demonstration on a forensic digital camera system that the Advisory Committee may recommend for the pilot program. The Advisory Committee has also recommended the purchase of GynoCarts, locked refrigerators, and forensic alternate light sources.

6. OVS Updates

Linda reported that a “soft” launch of the Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification (SAVIN) program will occur in July and a variety of individuals will be invited to register to assist in testing the program. Notification will be available by telephone or e-mail and consist of court related events.

Linda will be presenting a workshop on the SAVIN program at the Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference. In addition, subcontracting staff will attend a workshop at the August OVS quarterly training and OVS staff will be available to present on SAVIN to the staff of the statewide coalitions. The Advisory Council will receive a presentation in July.

Linda reminded Council members that the July 20, 2010, Council meeting will be the last meeting for this Council term; the new Council term begins September 1, 2010. Linda stated that she would like to honor those members who will not continue to serve on the Council during the July meeting.

7. New Business

No new business was introduced.

8. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder