

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**June 11, 2019**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-Chair Judge Danaher, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Doreen Del Bianco, Bob Garguilo, Beth Hamilton, Jessica Pizzano, Josie Robles, Gerrie Wild, Deborah Witkin, Andrew Woods, Yvette Young

**Members Excused or Absent:**

David Lawrence-Hawley, Kristan Mangiafico

**OVS Staff Present:**

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

**Guest Present:**

Maria Gil, Sasa Harriott, Howard K. Hill

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome

Judge Danaher called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.

Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 16, 2019. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

Judge Danaher proposed that the presentation on Hartford Communities That Care be the next item on the agenda and the Council members agreed.

2. Hartford Communities That Care

Andrew Woods distributed a PowerPoint presentation, a final report and a one-page summary of the *First Generation EV-ROI Model for Hartford Communities That Care Crisis Response Team / Hospital Linked Violence Intervention Program*. Andrew explained that Hartford Communities That Care (HCTC) partners with Saint Francis Hospital to offer trauma-informed care to gunshot victims and their families at a time of significant crisis.

Andrew also discussed partnerships between HCTC, Harriot Home Health Services (HHHS), Howard K. Hill Funeral Services, and other funeral service providers.

Sasa Harriott, President of HHHS, distributed informational materials about HHHS and reported on the affiliation with HCTC. Sasa shared examples of the complex needs of the victims and their families following a traumatic injury and explained the health and home care services the agency provides.

Howard K. Hill, owner and operator of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services, discussed the needs of the community and options for reducing the amount of time for payment to be made by OVS for funeral services.

Council members discussed issues related to communication with police departments and ways to expedite the completion of documentation necessary to process a compensation claim.

3. Legislative Updates and Review

Bob Garguilo reported on:

- Senate Bill No. 989, *An Act Concerning Basic Labor Standards For Transportation Network Company Drivers*
- House Bill No. 6484, *An Act Concerning The Installation Of An Ignition Interlock Device On A Motor Vehicle In The Case Of A Person Who Does Not Own A Motor Vehicle*
- Senate Bill No. 691, *An Act Concerning Erasure of Criminal Records*

Beth Hamilton reported on:

- Senate Bill No. 3, *An Act Combating Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment*
- Senate Bill No. 880, *An Act Increasing Fairness And Transparency In The Criminal Justice System*
- House Bill No. 5003, *An Act Implementing A Paid Family and Medical Leave Program*

Gerrie Wild reported on:

- Senate Bill No. 693, *An Act Concerning Additional Housing Protections for a Victim of Family Violence or Sexual Assault*
- Raised House Bill No. 7383, *An Act Concerning The Freedom Of Information Act*

Valina Carpenter reported on:

- Raised Senate Bill No. 964, *An Act Concerning Court Operations*
- Raised Senate Bill No. 831, *An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to Special Parole and Parole Discharge Statutes*

Yvette Young reported on:

- Raised House Bill No. 7399, *An Act Concerning Legal Protections For The Victims of Human Trafficking And The Protection Of Minors From Cyber Exploitation*

Linda Cimino reported on:

- o Raised Senate Bill No. 796, *An Act Concerning Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners*

4. Overview of the SAFE Program

Denise Covington, Program Manager, distributed and reviewed the *State of Connecticut, OVS Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program Fact Sheet*.

She reviewed the history and background of the Program, explained the purpose and need for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners, and described the various community partnerships. She also reviewed the need for state-wide training on the care of sexual assault patients and how the Program is working to meet those needs.

Denise reported that since the Program began in December 2010, the Program has responded to a total of 1,913 cases, averaging nearly 200 a year in the 8 participating hospitals and the University of CT at Storrs.

5. OVS Report

a) Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Report

James Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 05/31/2019, FY 07/01/18 – 06/30/19*. Jim reported the total disbursements to date are \$2.3 million. Jim stated that the CICF allocation will be fully expended in June and any additional expenses will be covered by Federal VOCA funds so there will be no delay in payments. Jim also stated that the number of claimants that received payment this year has increased by 12.4%.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2018 – 2019*. Jim reported that court collections through 04/30/2019 are \$1.2 million. Jim stated that court collections are averaging 7% lower and infractions are averaging 10% lower than the previous year.

Jim reported that infractions revenue collected through the Centralized Infractions Bureau on motor vehicle infractions is averaging 6% lower than the previous year.

b) OVS Update

Linda Cimino reported that approval for a second staff member for the SAFE Program has been received and the position was posted on the International Association of Forensic Nurses and the Association of Nursing Professional Development websites on Friday, June 14, 2019.

Jim Morgan reported that the VOCA Assistance Grant allocation from the Office of Victims of Crime for FFY 2019 has been released. OVS will be receiving \$24.5 million which is 33% lower than the previous year.

6. New Business

Brian Austin reported on Division of Criminal Justice Annual Professional Development Conference for Prosecutors 2019 to be held at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, on June 13, 2019.

Linda Cimino reported that the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee will host a presentation by the Office of the Victim Advocate on victim issues in Connecticut at the June 27, 2019 meeting.

Susan Omilian distributed informational materials on the My Avenging Angel Workshops™ and the Clothing and Book Drive.

Valina Carpenter will provide an overview of Enhanced SAVIN program at the September 10, 2019, meeting.

7. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder