

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**July 12, 2016**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Antonia Cordero, Doreen Del Bianco for Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, Robin Montgomery, David Snyder for Karen Martucci

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Joseph W. Bibisi, Laura Cordes, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Deborah Witkin

**OVS Staff Present:**

Tina Bouchard, Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Guests Present:** Trooper First Class (TFC) Christine Jeltema, Connecticut State Police Training Academy

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Judge John A. Danaher called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members and guest introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the May 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes  
Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 10, 2016. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Presentation: *Trauma informed care and victim sensitivity training offered to CT State Police*  
TFC Christine Jeltema from the Connecticut State Police (CSP) Training Academy presented on the trauma informed interviewing techniques that state police officers learn at the CSP training academy. These techniques include acknowledging the victim's fears and anxiety about what has occurred, to be nonjudgmental in their questioning, and to reassure the victim that help is available.

TFC Jeltema stated that state police officers also receive training on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), which is a screening tool that allows

police officers responding to domestic violence calls to assess if the victim is at risk for serious injury or death.

Council members discussed issues related to ongoing training and what types of support systems are offered to police officers.

4. Presentation: *Trauma informed care and victim sensitivity training offered to municipal police trainees at POST*

Valina Carpenter distributed a copy of her presentation entitled *First Response to Victims of Crime, a Guidelines for Compassionate Death Notification card*, and a *Victim Rights and Services (JD-VS-2S Rev. 12-15)* card.

Valina played a section of a training video entitled *First Response to Victims of Crime* by the Office for Victims of Crime and provided an overview of the OVS training session presented at the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST).

Valina explained that the four-hour OVS training session highlights victim rights, law enforcement's role as a first responder and how their interaction with victims can have a positive or negative affect on a victim, and the 3 major needs of victims: to feel safe, to express their emotions, and to know "what comes next." She stated the training also includes strategies for compassionate death notification and information about the importance of self-care.

Council members discussed issues and potential resolutions in developing uniform training standards for state and municipal police departments.

5. Round-table discussion: *Proposed state budget and how it will affect victim service agencies*

Linda Cimino reported that the Forensic Sex Evidence Exam line item has been reduced.

Karen Jarmoc reported that the budget cuts will impact funding for the domestic violence shelters, the Spanish Hotline, and the civil victim advocate program.

Council members discussed issues related to providing a continued level of services to crime victims with reduced funding and resources.

6. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update

Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 6/30/2016, FY 07/01/15 – 06/30/16*. Jim reported that total disbursements to date are \$2.6 million which is a 4.9% increase compared

to last year. He reported the current obligation of disbursements has increased 5.5% this year to \$405,038. Jim reported 762 claimants have received payment, which is a 10.4% increase over last year and the average payment to claimants decreased by 5% to \$3,442.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152), Fiscal Year 2015-2016*. Jim reported there is 15% increase in court contributions compared to Fiscal Year 14-15. He stated the highest CICF contribution amounts have been received from New Britain, Stamford, Norwich, Danbury and Rockville Superior Courts. Jim reported that New Haven, New Britain, Middletown, Norwich, and Rockville Superior Courts have the highest CICF amounts for number of infractions.

7. New Business

Judge Danaher inquired if members had any new business to discuss. Members had no new business.

8. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder