

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**July 15, 2014**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room from 2:04 p.m. to 3:54 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Jillian Gilchrest for Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, Susan Omilian, and Jan VanTassel

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Kevin Lawlor, Brian Moore, and Rocco Tricarico

**OVS Staff Present:**

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Denise Covington, Brenda Jordan, and Katie Nesta

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Judge John Danaher called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the May 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 8, 2014. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. CICF Update  
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget statement for month ending June 30, 2014*. Jim reported that total disbursements are \$3.1 million, with \$618,330 remaining for current obligations, compared to \$816,287 that was pending this time last year in obligations.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *CICF Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014*. Jim reported that there was a beginning fund balance of \$1.5 million, with \$3.6 million in total revenues. Jim explained that \$3.3 million was expended leaving a fund balance of \$1.8 million.

Members discussed payments received from restitution as well as payments received from court ordered donations.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *CICF Contributions for State Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014*. Jim reported that there has been a total of \$1.9 million collected, which is a 20% increase from last year.

Members discussed differences in the amounts collected for the CICF contributions as well as state-wide standards and education for state's attorneys and judges.

4. Response to Sandy Hook Elementary School Tragedy

a) Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Program Update

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Sandy Hook Workers' Assistance Fund FY 2013 – 2014 Quarterly Report Summary April 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014*. Jim reported that a total of \$387,000 in donations was received, with \$156,223 in expenditures, leaving a balance of \$231,586.

Jim also reported that a total of 94 applications have been received, 25 of which have been approved and the remainder are still pending because there are no losses that can be paid at this time. Jim explained that that the deadline for applications for the Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Program was June 30, 2014, with all reimbursements disbursed by August 31, 2015.

b) Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Grant

Linda Cimino reported that the second part of the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Grant was awarded in the amount of \$7.1 million.

c) Immediate Needs Fund Update

Linda reported that 238 families have received assistance through the Immediate Needs Fund totaling \$964,459. Linda also reported that as of August 1, 2014, the Office of Victim Services (OVS) will no longer be responsible for the Immediate Needs Fund and thanked Rachel McKnight and Nancy Gulash for all their work.

5. 2014 Legislative Review

Karen Jarmoc reported on Public Act 14-217, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. Karen explained that the Act establishes a task force to study the service of restraining orders.

Karen reported on funding to have a state-wide Spanish hotline as well as bilingual staff.

Karen also reported on Public Act 14-234, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Karen explained that the Act creates penalties for anyone who maliciously discloses the location of an emergency shelter.

Karen distributed a project description report from the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering titled "A Study on Addressing Family Violence in Connecticut: Strategies, Tactics and Policies."

Janice Heggis Margolis reported on Public Act 14-228, An Act Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices. Janice explained that the Act grants automatic installation of an ignition interlock device for 6 months for first time offenses after an automatic 45 day license suspension.

Janice also reported that MADD National is working with car manufacturers to have the ignition interlock device installed in every car that comes off the assembly line within the next 5 to 7 years.

Jillian Gilchrest reported on Public Act 14-11, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence on Campus. Jillian explained that the Act allows victims to report to a university anonymously, establishes a campus resource team, and mandates training in the awareness and prevention.

Jillian also reported on Public Act 14-217, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. Jillian explained that the Act expands the eligibility of civil protection orders.

Judge Danaher reviewed and distributed a report outlining some of the 2014 legislation pertaining to victims including Public Act 14-196, 14-110, 14-147, 14-173, and 14-234.

Members discussed the report and requested clarification regarding Public Act 14-186, An Act Concerning the Department of Children and Families and the Protection of Children, which allows for additional mandated reporters. Linda reported that information regarding the Act will be e-mailed to members.

6. OVS Update

Linda announced that Shirley Bostrom passed away. Shirley was a former Vice President of Survivors of Homicide, Inc. and Connecticut Alliance for Victims of Violence and Their Families. She was also a member of National Victims of Violence in Action, Fight Crime-Invest In Kids. She served on the Board of Directors for CCADV and on the Advisory Board for CHIPS. After her daughter's murder, she devoted much of her time and energy to domestic violence prevention and authored two books, "Funny He Doesn't Look Like a Murderer, But Margie is Dead" and "Abby's Dilemma."

Linda reported that on July 1, 2014, Samuel Burrier, Buyer Specialist for OVS, retired. Linda also reported that on August 1, 2014, Victim Services Supervisor, Susanne Pakele, will also be retiring.

Linda reported that on August 8, 2014, Valina Carpenter will assume her new role as the Deputy Director of OVS. Linda also reported that on August 14, 2014, interviews to hire three new Victim Services Supervisors will be held.

7. Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program Update  
Denise Covington reported that there are a total of 38 SAFEs currently participating in the SAFE Program. Denise also reported on the success of the two training classes that OVS offered since September of 2013. Denise reported that Deborah Rubio, Clinical Coordinator for the SAFE Program, will be leaving at the end of July 2014.

Denise provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 173 completed cases from July 1, 2013, to July 1, 2014.

Members discussed the statistical data.

8. Discussion: CT Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards  
Karen reported on formalized Connecticut Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards that will be presented to the Connecticut Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission in September and welcomed members to contact her with feedback regarding the report by mid-August.

9. New Business  
Susan Omilian reported on an upcoming "My Avenging Angel Workshops; Living Well is the Best Revenge."

10. Thank you to Council Members  
Linda thanked members and provided certificates for their invaluable contributions during their service on the Council since the term began in September 2010.

Steve Eppler-Epstein, who is going off the council after serving as co-chair, thanked the members of the council and the staff of OVS for their important and successful efforts on behalf of victims of crime.

11. Adjournment  
Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder