

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
July 17, 2012

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, from 2:04 p.m. to 3:19 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Kevin Lawlor, Robin Montgomery, Brian Moore, Susan Omilian, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Chester Brodnicki, Kimberly Joyner, and Rocco Tricarico

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Brenda Jordan, Tina Bouchard, and Katie Nesta

Guest:

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the May 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 15, 2012. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Legislative Special Session Update
Linda Cimino reported on Public Act 12-104, An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013. The Forensic Sex Evidence Exams line item is increased by \$300,000 to address the year end fiscal position and \$100,000 for reimbursements to multidisciplinary teams for child sexual assault forensic interviews. Linda also reported that the bill decreases the victim security account from \$48,000 to \$9,276.

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

Karen Jarmoc reported on the history of the domestic violence bill and explained that the intent of the bill was to make victim compensation available only to children who witness domestic homicide. The language in the bill will be reviewed next legislative session.

4. OVS Financial Report

Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Jim reported that the fund balance at the beginning of the year was \$1,970,000. Jim reported that total revenues are \$2,930,000, which is \$200,000 less than last year due to a reduction in court donations and fees. Jim also reported that total expenditures equal \$3,394,000, leaving an estimated fund balance of \$1,506,000.

Steve asked to have more information on the process for escheated funds at a future meeting.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 06/30/12. Jim reported that the total appropriated funds are \$3,100,000. Jim reported that total disbursements are \$2,646,000, with \$459,000 remaining for current obligations. Jim also reported that there is \$636,000 in total obligations as of June 30, 2012, equaling 105% of total appropriations.

5. Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program Update

Denise reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been a total of 272 case responses among the 6 participating hospitals, with 109 case responses this year. There are currently 31 SAFEs participating in the Program.

Denise reported that there will be 2 more SAFE training courses under the grant that will be held in the fall and winter at Quinnipiac University, nurses who have expressed interest are being screened for eligibility.

Denise reported that a meeting with the participating hospitals was held at OVS on June 8, 2012. The hospitals will compile a single orientation packet versus 6 individual orientation packets for the SAFEs. Denise also reported that the participating hospitals will be receiving HEPA filtered swab dryers; which are designed to store, dry or otherwise process forensic evidence in a controlled, tamper proof environment to maintain chain of custody.

Denise reported on the continued success of relationships with community partners.

Denise made the victim surveys available to members.

Denise reported that she co-taught with a certified instructor at the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). Denise also reported that she is working with Robin Montgomery on arranging meetings with the police chiefs in the police departments that are in the area of the participating hospitals.

Denise also reported that since the Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) camera system was implemented, 51 out of the 91 possible cases where SDFI could be used had the photos taken, equaling 56%. Denise also reported that any admissibility and accessibility issues of the photos are being addressed.

Denise provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 200 completed cases from July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2012.

Members discussed the SAFE response time as well as admissibility and accessibility of the photos in court proceedings.

Denise also reported that she is working with Danbury Hospital on developing a hospital based version of the SAFE Program to be used at non-participating hospitals.

6. CT SAVIN Update

Linda provided a presentation on the Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (CT SAVIN) system.

7. OVS Program Update

Brenda Jordan reported that the OVS web page is undergoing changes to make it more user friendly. Brenda reported that the Compensation Program brochure was translated into Spanish and is available online. Brenda also reported that the Compensation Program's Policies and Procedures were approved by Judge Quinn on July 2, 2012.

Linda reported that the OVS victim advocate from the Ansonia-Milford Judicial District has transferred to the Fairfield Judicial District.

8. New Business

Steve reported that there is a scheduling conflict with the next meeting currently scheduled for September 18, 2012. New dates will be e-mailed to members.

9. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder