

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
July 19, 2011

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, July 19, 2011, from 2:03 p.m. to 3:09 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Joseph Bibisi, Janice Heggie Margolis, Daniel F. Lewis, Robin Montgomery, Susan Omilian, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Karen Jarmoc, Kimberly Joyner, Nancy Kushins, Kevin Lawlor, and Rocco Tricarico

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, Tina Bouchard, Valina Carpenter, Brenda Jordan, Rachel McKnight, James Morgan, Katie Nesta, and Sue Pakele

Guest:

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.

Linda J. Cimino raised the issue of a quorum. Judge Carroll explained that if there is any official business that should be decided on the council will convene to a special meeting.
2. Approval of the March 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Judge Carroll asked for approval of the minutes of March 15, 2011. The minutes were accepted with corrections or objections raised at a subsequent meeting.
3. OVS Updates
Jim Morgan reported the grant amount for the new contract cycle is \$5.1 million dollars. The request for the contracts was for \$6.9 million dollars. The Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Stamford, has been added as a new contractor. A new list of contractors will be provided when available.

Jim also reported on three new contractors that are part of the Counseling Assistance to Homicide Survivors Program. The contractors include Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford, Family Centers, Inc., and United Services, Inc.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 6/30/2011. Jim reported that unlike in the past where OVS usually runs out of funds by February, there are funds left over. Attributing factors are higher federal funding as well as the number of compensation claims being received is lower.

Linda stated there is a third factor and asked Rachel McKnight to explain. Rachel explained that the Compensation Unit does not make any awards on work related incidents until decisions are made on workers' compensation disability rating settlements.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Estimated Statement of Financial Position for fiscal years 2009-2013. Jim reported that as of July 1, 2010, there was a \$3.4 million fund balance, with total revenues of \$3.1 million. As of June 30, 2011, there are \$4,668,978 total expenses with a balance of \$1.9 million.

Tina Bouchard reported on the "Social Networking: Changing the Rules" conference that will be held on September 27, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. To date, there are a total of 97 advocates, 47 police officers and 20 prosecutors registered. Tina explained the conference will consist of four speakers; Cynthia Fraser, Jayne Hitchcock, Matthew Crockett, and Mike Ribble. Tina gave bios for each of them.

Sue Pakele reported that the Helpline phone calls have increased by 500 calls this year compared to last year. Last year the Helpline had a total of 2,400 calls. This year, the calls totaled 2,900. Sue explained that as of next July matters involving 17 year old offenders will be handled at the juvenile court level. Sue also explained she and Valina Carpenter are working together on outreach to juvenile court houses that have no victim advocate.

Valina reported on the success of the internship program for advocates and the survey program.

Brenda Jordan distributed the OVS all service brochure which was revised to include CT SAVIN and SAFE. Brenda reported that a draft of the compensation survey is at Legal Services for review and is expected to be implemented at the end of the month.

Brenda also reported that Susan Omilian, serving as a victim representative for the OVS letter review committee, has been reviewing letters for tone, sensitivity, and clarity. As well as, Robin Montgomery, who is reviewing the short form that is sent out to police departments.

Denise Covington reported there have been a total of 71 cases among the 6 hospitals since the SAFE program started on December 2, 2010. As of April, the program has been operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Denise stated that there are a total of 9 nurses on call. Three classes of nurses have completed the training course at Quinnipiac University. Another course is scheduled for the fall semester.

Denise also reported that the SDFI software was installed in the participating hospitals and it is anticipated the technology will be used in the fall.

Rachel reported that there are 118 less applications this fiscal year compared to last year. For the calendar year, there are 99 less applications this year compared to last year. Rachel explained an outreach committee has been implemented to raise awareness about the Compensation Program.

Rachel also reported that as of October 1, 2011, relatives of victims of domestic violence can apply for mental health counseling.

Linda reported that the presentation on the GPS system was moved to the September meeting. Linda also reported that an OVS victim services advocate will present with a victim she helped through the process at the November meeting.

Linda reported the following statistics on the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program collected from 08/26/10 to 07/19/11.

- o 31,000 site searches
- o 10,295 registered
- o 30,000 telephone and e-mail continuance date notifications
- o 70 telephone and e-mail appellate notifications

Linda also reported that for fiscal year 2010-2011, hospitals were reimbursed for 1,162 sexual assault exam kits totaling almost \$1 million. Due to budget cuts, the sexual assault reimbursement funds have been cut by \$100,000.

4. Council Updates

Janice Heggie Margolis reported that the Office of Victim the Advocate Advisory Committee was dissolved.

Susan Omilian reported on upcoming workshops to be held in the fall. Susan also reported on a presentation for the OVS Staff Appreciation Day and trainings to be held this month for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) advocates.

Linda reported that Nancy Kushins will be retiring as executive director of CONNSACS and that Laura Cordes has been named the new executive director.

5. Legislative Updates

Janice reported on H.B. No. 6650 that will make the ignition interlock device mandatory for all repeat offenders. Janice stated the program will be monitored by probation.

Judge Carroll asked if the offenders will be responsible for any fees. Janice explained that offenders are responsible for all costs associated with the leased devices.

Linda reported that S.B. No. 1224 which would expand compensation eligibility for victims of sexual assault when a police report has not been issued did not pass.

Linda stated statistics regarding sexual assault compensation applications received from April 1, 2009 to April 30, 2011, will be made available for the September meeting.

6. New Business

Members discussed the state's budget implications, including the possible layoffs and its affect on victims of crime and the courts.

Janice inquired about the agencies that will be consolidated with the newly created Office of Governmental Accountability. Linda stated that a memo listing the agencies will be e-mailed to members.

7. Adjournment

Judge Carroll adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder