

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**July 21, 2009**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, from 2:16 p.m. to 3:51 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, George Anderson for John Duffey, Joseph Bibisi, Larry Bostrom, Chester Brodnicki, Cheryl Burack, Nancy Kushins, Erika Tindill, and Jan VanTassel

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Fernando Betancourt, Janice Heggie Margolis, Kevin Lawlor, Jo-Ann Miller, and Neil O'Leary

**OVS Staff Present:**

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, and Tina Bouchard

**Guest Speaker:**

Jane F. Rodas, Director, Project Rescue and Assist New Americans International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the Minutes from the May 19, 2009 Meeting  
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 19, 2009. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented with an abstention from George Anderson.
3. OVS Update  
Linda Cimino reported on the following:
  - The OVS 30 year recognition event will be held on September 15, 2009, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at 225 Spring Street, Fourth Floor Wethersfield, with Steve Eppler-Epstein and Deputy Chief Court Administrator Patrick Carroll to serve as the opening speakers during the portion of the event recognizing individuals who were instrumental in the development of OVS services.
  - The Judicial Branch received an award of \$190,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement the SAVIN program. The award requires a 50 percent match.

- A summary of the Fifteen-Minute Meetings with the Director were distributed to staff in June. A work plan is being developed to review the suggestions raised by staff.
- The 2010 legislative proposals are due mid-August. Proposals are under development to amend Connecticut General Statutes § 54-215 (a) to remove the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) from the state budget; § 54-211 (f) to provide OVS with the authority to assist Connecticut residents who are injured in a country that does not have a compensation program; § 54-203 (b) (6) to allow OVS to contract with for profit counseling services for survivors of homicide victims; and §§ 54-228, 54-229, and 54-230 to address changes due to the implementation of SAVIN.

Jim Morgan distributed a report entitled *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 6/30/09 and Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2008-2009*.

Jim stated that the Compensation Program ended June 30, 2009 with a shortfall of \$1,200,000 or approximately \$100,000 higher than June 30, 2008, and that the CICF revenues were over \$3,100,000 for the year.

Jim reported that the FY2009 Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) awards were released to the states. Connecticut will see an increase of \$800,000 in the Assistance Grant and \$240,000 in the Compensation Grant. Jim added that most OVS contractors are using the additional funding from the federal Recovery Act for staffing and/or purchasing computers for staff.

Jim reported that there is a proposal in Washington to increase the VOCA cap by 20 percent per year for the next five years. This could potentially double the Assistance Grant in five years.

4. Trafficking in Persons Overview

Jane Rodas, director of Project Rescue and Assist New Americans International Institute of Connecticut, Inc., provided a presentation entitled *The Tragedy of Human Trafficking*.

5. New Business

No new business was introduced.

6. Adjournment

Steve called for a motion to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Tina Bouchard, Recorder