

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 8, 2015

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 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Matt Berardino for Melissa Farley, Joseph W. Bibisi, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Mui-Mui Hin-McCormick, Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, and Deborah Witkin

Members Excused or Absent:

Chester Brodnicki and David Lawrence-Hawley

OVS Staff Present:

Linda Cimino, Marcy Carlone, Valina Carpenter, James Morgan, and Jean Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Judge Danaher called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the July 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2015. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. 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 08/31/2015, FY 07/01/15 – 06/30/16*. Jim stated that he added a new section to this report titled *Sources of Funds*. Jim reported that the total amount of available funds from the CICF and VOCA grant balance is \$5.4 million with total appropriated funds of \$3,089,000. Total disbursements to date are \$430,891 with a balance of \$2.7 million remaining for program obligations. Jim reported there was a slight increase in victim applications for this calendar year with a total of 591 applications received.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Sandy Hook Workers' Assistance Fund Monthly Activity Report – FINAL*. Jim reported that 94 applications were received, 34 applications were approved for payment, and 60 applications were approved but did not have any losses.

He added that OVS awarded \$273,000 for medical expenses, mental health expenses, and lost wages. The Fund has an unexpended balance of \$115,000, which is held in the Office of the State Treasurer's account.

Linda Cimino reported that OVS is recommending 75% of the monies remaining in the Fund be awarded to the Sandy Hook teachers' union to support services to

teachers and school personnel with the remaining 25% to be awarded to the Newtown Police Department to disburse to other municipalities having difficulty obtaining funding. She stated this recommendation has not been before the Legislature yet.

4. Presentation: Civil Protection Orders

Marcy Carlone distributed the *Civil Protection Order Information Form, JD-CV-148* and the *Application for Civil Protection Order, JD-CV-143*. Marcy reported that as of January 1, 2015, under Connecticut General Statutes Section 46b-16a, a person who has been the victim of sexual abuse, sexual assault or stalking may make an application to the Civil Court for relief under this section, provided such person has not obtained any other court order of protection arising out of such abuse, assault or stalking and does not qualify to seek relief under Section 46b-15.

Marcy explained the Civil Protection Order (CPO) process and stated that the CPO fills a gap that has existed for many years for victims of sexual assault/abuse and stalking.

Marcy reported there have been 1,121 applications processed with 257 Civil Protection Orders granted as of September 7, 2015.

Council members discussed the application process, the role of OVS victim service advocates, and that applications are provided to the respondent and accessible to the public.

5. Presentation: CT SAVIN

Linda Cimino presented on the Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (CT SAVIN) system, which provides registered victims with information on the criminal case, the custody status of an offender, and when a criminal court order of protection is issued, modified, or terminated.

Linda reviewed the pre-conviction and post-conviction court events, as well as the types of orders of protection that can be monitored. She demonstrated how to access and register for notification and reviewed the notification system and notification calling patterns.

David Snyder stated victims may also register with the Connecticut Department of Correction to be notified of changes in an inmate's custody status.

A Council member inquired if offenders have access to registrants' information. Linda responded that offenders do not have access; however, there are a limited number of administrative users, who do have access to registrant information through the administered program VineWatch. Council members then discussed victim safety and confidentiality issues.

6. New Business

After a discussion of upcoming presentation topics suggested at previous meetings, Council members agreed that the November Council meeting agenda include legislative topics by Council members and the following presentation(s):

- Intimate Partner Violence Health Care Screening, Training and Intervention Project presented by Natacha J. Kerelejza, LCSW, Clinical Project Director for Health Professional Outreach of Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)
- Culturally Sensitive Victim Response presented by Antonia Cordero with UConn School of Social Work, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick with Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and Laura Cordes with Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.

It was also agreed that the January Council meeting agenda should include legislative topics by Council members and a presentation on Trauma Informed Services. More details on this presentation will be developed by Council members at the November meeting.

Susan distributed information on an upcoming *My Avenging Angel Workshops*.

7. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder