

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 12, 2017

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Liza Andrews for Karen Jarmoc, Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, Deborah Witkin

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Lucia Giocoechea-Hernandez, Steven Hernandez, David Lawrence-Hawley

OVS Staff Present:

Valina Carpenter, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Judge Danaher opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Council members deferred approval of the July 11, 2017, meeting minutes to the November 7, 2017, council meeting, due to the lack of a quorum.
3. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update
James Morgan distributed and reviewed the Office of Victim Services *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 08/31/17, FY 07/01/17 – 06/30/18*. Jim reported that the CICF has no appropriation and no victim compensation payments can be made from the CICF until a state budget is passed. Jim stated that VOCA grant funds are being used for payments. He reported that \$120,925 in victim compensation payments for 13 claims, primarily for loss of support annuities and other expenses not eligible for VOCA funds, are being held until a state budget is passed. He stated that \$257,614 for payments for contracted services are also awaiting disbursement. Jim reported that in FY 2016 - 2017 OVS had spent \$450,383 through 8/31/16.

James Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2017 - 2018*. Jim reported that court collections reflected in this statement are lower compared to \$198,672 for July 2016 and also lower than the average of \$150,000 per month in the 4th quarter of FY 2016 – 2017.

4. State Budget and Legislative Changes Discussion
Council members discussed the status of the state budget and the effects on victim service agencies. Members discussed issues related to the reduction in staff due to the increased number of recent retirements within the agencies they represent.

5. OVS Update
 - a) Public Act 17-99
Valina reported the legislative changes expand eligibility criteria for the victim compensation program. She stated that a presentation to explain the changes is planned for the next council meeting. She reported that the OVS policies and procedures, publications, and letters are being reviewed for changes needed relating to PA 17-99. She also reported that OVS will provide extensive training to sub-contractors so they will be aware of how these changes impact the clients they serve.

 - b) Video project
Valina reported that production of the videos is expected to begin in late fall. The video topics include; OVS Overview, Court 101, Victim Compensation Program 101, and Orders of Protection.

 - c) Training police officers
Valina reported that OVS provided continuing education training sessions to New Britain and Plainville police regarding who is eligible and the many types of orders of protection. The sessions were conducted during roll call at the police departments.

 - d) OVS staff retirements
Valina Carpenter reported that since July 2017, 2 victim services advocates retired and 1 accepted another employment opportunity. Overall, throughout this past year, 6 staff members left OVS.

6. New Business
Council members had no new business items to discuss.

November meeting topics include a presentation by OVS of the changes to the victim compensation program and a discussion about how the state's attorney may better assist victims.

7. Adjournment
Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder