

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 17, 2013

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room from 2:08 p.m. to 3:34 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Tina Greaves for Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, Brian Moore, Susan Omilian, Rocco Tricarico, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, and Kevin Lawlor

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, and Katie Nesta

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the July 23, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 23, 2013. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented. Jan Van Tassel abstained.
3. CICF Update
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget statement for month ending August 31, 2013. Jim reported that appropriated funds are higher compared to last year equaling \$3,388,000. Jim attributed the rise to un-used federal grant money that was carried over from last year. Jim also reported that \$277,000 of the \$873,000 in current obligations for month ending August 31, 2013, are loss of support payments which may or may not be paid out this year depending on when the claimant reaches the age of 18.

Members discussed the CICF spending rates compared to last year as well as possible delays in payments to victims. Steve recommended that the management of spending be discussed with court administrators during the November Council meeting.

Members discussed the types of claims that are being received and the impact on the CICF. Steve requested that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) report be e-mailed to members.

Jim Morgan reported on Special Act 13-01, An Act Establishing the Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Program and Fund, Clarifying the Calculation of Survivor Benefits, and Authorizing a Waiver of the State-Wide Mastery Examination Requirement for Certain Newtown Students. Jim explained that applications for the Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Program must be in by June 30, 2014, with all reimbursements disbursed by August 31, 2015.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Fund Monthly Statistics for FY 2013 - 2014. Jim reported that to date, a total of 56 applications were received equaling \$64,000 total reimbursements out of the \$214,000 in donations that were collected.

Members discussed eligibility requirements and deadlines associated with the Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Fund.

Jim distributed and reviewed the Forensic Evidence Collection Reimbursement Expense Report for FY 2013 – 2014. Jim reported that a total of 326 exams were completed, 90 of which were carried over from last year equaling \$66,000. Jim also reported that of the 326 completed exams 28% were adults.

Members discussed expansion of forensic evidence collection funds as well as the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program.

Steve requested a report on court payments be e-mailed to members.

4. OVS Update

Linda Cimino reported that the position of Program Manager for the SAFE Program was posted.

Linda also reported on 2 national conferences that she along with Jim attended. Linda explained that the Office for Victims of Crime provided a presentation at the National Association of Crime Victims Compensation Board National Training Conference that she attended September 11-13, 2013, in which OVS compensation program applications were highlighted.

5. Discussion: Examination of Current OVS Compensation Program Statutes Per Public Act 13-166 (attachments provided)

Linda reported on Public Act 13-166, An Act Concerning Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons. Linda explained that the Act requires OVS to make a poster outlining the services available to human

trafficking victims available at certain types of truck stop locations and certain facilities that hold an on premises liquor consumption permit. Linda also explained that the Act requires OVS to review the compensation services available to sexual exploitation and human trafficking victims.

Linda reported that recommendations regarding compensation services for human trafficking victims are due to the Legislature by January 15, 2014.

Members discussed the victim compensation eligibility requirement that a victim of a crime has to have physical injury and mental anguish to receive victim compensation under the current compensation statute. Members requested that last year's proposed changes to the compensation statute be e-mailed.

Linda reviewed and distributed a power point presentation handout titled Connecticut's Human Trafficking Laws provided by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Members discussed the re-defined definition of human trafficking as well as victim of human trafficking qualifications.

Linda also reviewed and distributed sections 54-201, 54-208, 54-209, and 54-216 from Title 54 Chapter 968 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Members discussed lack of statistical data surrounding human trafficking as well as whether there is national information available to aid in recommendations of compensation services for human trafficking victims.

Members discussed recommended revisions to the compensation statute for human trafficking victims being extended out to cover other victims who are not currently eligible due to not having any physical injury. Members also discussed the impact of expanding the compensation statute.

Members discussed outreach to victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking as well as the general public.

6. New Business

Steve reported that Jamey Bell is the new Executive Director of Greater Hartford Legal Aid.

7. Adjournment
Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder