

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 20, 2011

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, from 2:07 p.m. to 4:04 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chairs Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, and Steve Eppler-Epstein, Antonia Cordero, Kevin Lawlor, Daniel F. Lewis, Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, Susan Omilian, and Laura Cordes

Members Excused or Absent:

Janice Heggie Margolis, Chester Brodnicki, Kimberly Joyner, Rocco Tricarico, Joseph Bibisi, and Jan VanTassel

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, Valina Carpenter, and Katie Nesta

Guest:

Joseph DiTunno, Program Manager II, Court Support Services Division

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the July 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 19, 2011. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. CSSD Alert Notification/GPS Pilot Program
Joe DiTunno provided a presentation on the GPS Pilot Program. The Program targets high risk domestic violence offenders charged with violating a restraining or protective order. Since the start of the GPS Pilot Program on October 1, 2010, 172 offenders have been ordered by the court to participate in the Program. The 3 pilot locations are: Danielson, Bridgeport, and Hartford.

The Program reinforces orders of protection and enhances victim safety by providing alert notifications to the victim and local law enforcement that an offender is within a pre-determined area of the victim. The Program allows for mobile exclusion zones and stationary exclusion zones which both have a 2,500 foot radius.

A mobile exclusion zone is an area around the victim that is created by carrying a GPS mobile device. If the offender is within that distance of the victim there will be an alert sent to the victim and law enforcement. There is also a mobile buffer zone alert which adds an additional 2,500 feet to the exclusion zone and sends an alert to just the victim before the offender enters the exclusion zone.

The stationary exclusion zone is an area surrounding a fixed location, such as a victim's home or workplace. If the offender is within that distance there will be an alert sent to the victim and law enforcement. There is also a stationary buffer alert zone which adds an additional 2,500 feet to the exclusion zone and sends an alert to just the victim before the offender enters the exclusion zone.

Alerts will also occur if the device is tampered with or if the system is unable to locate the offender.

Joe explained that a report will be submitted to the Legislature at the Program's end in December. Steve asked for a copy of the report to be e-mailed to Council members.

4. OVS Updates

Linda J. Cimino 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 114 advocates, 75 police officers, and 33 prosecutors registered. Linda also reported that Chief Court Administrator, the Honorable Barbara Quinn will provide opening remarks at the conference as well as possible video coverage from Connecticut Network (CT-N).

Linda reported that Jim Morgan, Joanna Buikus, and Anna Fidyk are attending a VOCA conference in Long Beach, California.

Linda reported on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget. Linda explained that the total expenses for July and August were \$282,993, which is 9.38% of the 2010-2011, fiscal year total.

Steve asked Linda to provide members with an estimated date of when approved claims will not be paid at the November Council meeting. Linda explained this year's allocation is the same as last, but there may be an issue for state fiscal year 2012-2013.

Linda also reported that for fiscal year 2010-2011, hospitals were reimbursed for 1,157 sexual assault exam kits totaling \$1 million.

5. Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program (SAFE) Update

Linda reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been a total of 117 cases among the 6 participating hospitals.

Linda provided members with a handout of the SAFE statistics based on 108 completed cases from December 2, 2010 - September 3, 2011. The statistics were compiled from VoiceShot and data forms. The statistics are as follows:

- 35% of cases were seen at Hartford Hospital.
- 39% of cases were between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Sundays had the highest number of cases totaling 26 cases.
- August had the highest number of cases totaling 22 cases.
- The average SAFE response time is 1 hour to 75 minutes.
- The average time of a case (admission to discharge) is 4 to 5 hours.
- 89% of patients are consenting to full evidence collection.
- 40% of cases are reported to the police and the offender is a non-stranger.

Linda reported that the Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) training is scheduled from September 26 - September 30, 2011 for all 28 nurses. Each hospital is scheduled for set up from October 1 - October 3, 2011. A special training session will be held for law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice personnel on October 4, 2011.

Linda also reported that the budget pick-up request for March - June 2013 was submitted. A full 2 year pick-up request for the following budget cycle July 2013 - June 2015 will be compiled.

6. Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Update

Linda reported the following statistics on the SAVIN Program:

- 35,832 site searches
- 12,519 registered
- 53,291 telephone notifications, 4,819 confirmed
- 43,590 e-mail notifications

Linda reported that the SAVIN Program was awarded a federal enhancement grant in the amount of \$100,000. Linda also reported that because of the grant the web site's home page will be translated into Spanish, notifications will be provided in Portuguese and Polish, and a public awareness campaign will be created.

Linda explained that phase 2 of the Program is currently undergoing user acceptance testing and is expected to be completed in October. Steve asked for an e-mail to be sent to Council members when completed.

7. State Budget Impact

Members discussed the state's budget impacts, including various cut backs and retirements, and the effect on courts and other state offices.

8. New Business

Susan Omilian reported on a conference entitled "Uniting for Peace: Linking Research, Policy and Practice to End Violence and Abuse in Homes and Communities Worldwide" presented by Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma that she attended in San Diego, California that had a high military audience. Members discussed the impact that coming home from military assignment has on individuals, including post traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries; as well as resources available for those individuals.

Linda reminded members that at the November Council meeting an OVS victim services advocate will present with a victim she helped through the court process.

Linda also reminded members that the meeting dates for next year will be scheduled at the next Council meeting.

9. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder