

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
September 21, 2010

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, from 2:08 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Nancy Kushins, Daniel F. Lewis, Susan Omilian, Erika Tindill, Rocco Tricarico, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Janice Heggie Margolis, Kimberly Joyner, Kevin Lawlor, and Robin Montgomery

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, and Brenda Jordan

Guest:

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator

Other:

A member of the general public also attended

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Linda J. Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.

Linda explained the structure of the Council and requested that members inform Linda or Brenda Jordan if they are unable to attend a Council meeting or have agenda items.

New members were presented with a packet that contained information on the Office of Victim Services (OVS).

2. Approval of the Minutes from the July 20, 2010 Meeting

Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2010. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. OVS Updates

Linda introduced Denise Covington, who serves as the program coordinator for the Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) pilot program. Denise informed members that Section 47 of Public Act 09-3

established a SAFE Advisory Committee to advise OVS on the establishment and implementation of the SAFE pilot program.

Denise stated that the program, funded by Recovery Act grants, was named after the late Gail Burns-Smith. Denise explained that the purpose of the program is to provide consistent, high-quality care and evidence collection for adult and adolescent victims of sexual assault by specially trained sexual assault forensic/nurse examiners. Six pilot hospitals: St. Francis Care, Hartford Hospital, Hospital of Central Connecticut-New Britain campus, Windham Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, and Manchester Hospital have been provided with a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the pilot project, which the hospitals are currently reviewing.

Denise added that Quinnipiac University has been selected through a Request for Proposal process to serve as the training partner. The SAFE clinical coordinator Nancy Mayeda-Brescia is working with Quinnipiac University to update course materials and is also developing the clinical portion of the pilot program.

Denise stated that the projected start date is the first week of November and a future goal is to expand the project statewide.

Linda added that participating hospitals would receive the following equipment: GynoCarts, a cart that turns any hospital bed into an obstetric table; locked refrigerators to store evidence collected; Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI), a high tech photography system to enhance prosecution; and an alternative light source. A demonstration on the SDFI system was provided to participating hospitals and to court staff from the pilot regions in May and August.

Members also discussed the dispatch of SAFE nurses to pilot hospitals, the SAFE Advisory Committee membership, and data collection to support future funding.

Linda provided the following OVS updates:

- Legislation passed that transferred the responsibility from the Department of Criminal Justice to OVS to reimburse hospitals for sexual assault exams/kits. In state fiscal year (SFY) 2009-2010, hospitals were reimbursed \$297,000 for adult sexual assault exams/kits and \$602,000 for adolescent exams/kits. In SFY 2010-2011, \$185,000 has been reimbursed to hospitals.
- As of September 20, 2010, 685 victim compensation applications were received. Determinations are averaging a 45-day turnaround.
- Since August 2010, nine trainings on the Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) program have been provided. OVS will host a table during the Mothers Against Drunk

Driving (MADD) Walk in Branford and will also co-host a Death Notification training with MADD in November.

- OVS has updated several informational brochures, which are in the process of Spanish translation.
- The Victim Services Unit policies and procedures were revised and approved by the Honorable Barbara M. Quinn, Chief Court Administrator.

Jim Morgan reported that the current victim services contracts expire in June. A Request for Proposal that will cover services for the next three years will be issued in November and due mid-December.

Jim stated that he recently attended a national training conference for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) assistance administrators. Congress continues to attempt to increase the VOCA cap, which is currently 800 million with a balance of five billion. The VOCA guidelines, in place since 1997, have been updated with an expected release by the end of 2010. The revisions include terms of service delivery and types of crimes assisted.

4. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Update

Steve provided an overview of the funding streams of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) to new members.

Jim distributed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 08/31/10, and stated that payments are current. Members reviewed and discussed the statement.

5. Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Presentation

Linda provided a PowerPoint presentation on the SAVIN system. Members received a copy of the PowerPoint presentation slides and other materials related to SAVIN.

Linda offered to provide training to individual agencies if requested.

Steve suggested that a SAVIN update become a standing agenda item.

6. 2011 Proposed Meeting Schedule (third Tuesday of the odd month)

Steve asked for a motion to adopt the 2011 meeting schedule. The motion was moved and seconded; the 2011 meeting schedule was adopted.

7. New Business

No new business was introduced.

8. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder