

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
October 3, 2012

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:47 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, 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, Antonia Cordero, Kimberly Joyner, and Kevin Lawlor

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Brenda Jordan, Joanna Buikus, and Katie Nesta

Guest:

Vicky Nichols, Deputy Director, Superior Court Operations

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the July 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 17, 2012. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Escheated Funds Update
Jim Morgan reported that a total of \$118,000 in escheated funds was transferred to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) in the past year, which represents approximately 2% of the total restitution collected by the Connecticut criminal courts for FY 2011-2012. Jim explained that escheated funds are unclaimed restitution funds owed to a victim who cannot be located; if the funds have been unclaimed for five years they are and transferred to the CICF.

Jim also reported that the process of collecting restitution starts with the defendant's probation officer. The probation officer sends a certified letter to the victim and sets up an account in the computer system. Jim explained that when a check is deposited, it is on the payment list the next

day. If the State Comptroller's Office sends a check back due to a bad address, there is a hold placed on the account and the probation officer will investigate through state and other available sources to find a new address. If no address is found, the probation office will follow-up on the case periodically to try and locate the victim. If the victim is located after the money has been transferred to the CICF, the money is sent back so the victim can be paid. Jim also reported that the state is moving to a new centralized system in which all follow-up on efforts to reach victims and distribute restitution funds will be conducted by the centralized restitution unit.

4. Strategic Planning Exercise

Members participated in an Affinity Diagram exercise.

5. New Business

Janice Heggie Margolis reported on the upcoming Workshop titled "Death Notification Workshop: Delivering the News with Compassion" that will be held on October 16, 2012, at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden. Janice explained that the Workshop will feature two speakers; Debbie Weir, Chief Executive Officer, MADD National and Robert Rudewicz, a retired Hartford Police Captain. Janice reported that the Workshop is for law enforcement and currently 38 police officers are registered.

Janice also reported that OVS Victim Services Advocate Keith Wortz will be receiving the Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Annual Community Service Award, which will be presented at a ceremony in October.

Susan Omilian reported on two upcoming "My Avenging Angel Workshops; Living Well is the Best Revenge."

Per a member's request, Linda gave an update regarding the SAFE Program.

Linda reported that a summary of the Affinity Diagram exercise will be e-mailed to members along with the minutes.

6. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder