

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**November 12, 2019**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-Chair Judge Danaher, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Melissa Conway, Melissa Farley, Mikayla Green, Beth Hamilton, Kristan Mangiafico, Jessica Pizzano, Gerrie Wild, Andrew Woods, Yvette Young

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Bob Garguilo, Deborah Witkin

**OVS Staff Present:**

Tina Bouchard, Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Guest Present:**

Bill Hass

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. New Council members, Mikayla Green and Melissa Conway, introduced themselves and provided a brief description of their roles within the agencies that they represent.
2. Approval of Minutes  
Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of June 11, 2019. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Overview of the Enhanced CT SAVIN Program  
Valina Carpenter provided handouts, *Enhanced VINELink Frequently Asked Questions* and *Overview of VINE*.

Valina explained the differences between the Classic CT SAVIN and Enhanced CT SAVIN programs. She reported that registrants can select to be notified by text messaging and in app alerts. Valina stated a new feature in Enhanced CT SAVIN is registration confirmation.

Valina demonstrated how to access the CT SAVIN link located on the OVS page on the Judicial Branch website which allows users to view the other services that the OVS provides to victims of crime. Valina also demonstrated how to access CT SAVIN by going directly to the VINE website.

She reviewed the features, *My Registrations*, *Service Provider Directory*, and *Not Sure, Guide Me*. Valina reported that the feedback from users has been positive.

Council members discussed issues related to the features of the notification system.

#### 4. OVS Report

##### a) Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Report

James Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 10/31/2019, FY 07/01/19 – 06/30/20*. Jim reported the total disbursements to date are \$904,946.44. Jim stated that the expenditures are 3.4% more than this time last year and there is sufficient state and federal funding to cover the increase. Jim also stated that the number of claimants that received payment between 07/01/19 – 10/31/19 is 6.3% higher than this time last year.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2019 – 2020*. Jim reported that court contributions for 07/01/19 – 09/30/19 are the highest quarterly collections since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017 – 2018. Jim stated that court contributions are slightly ahead of last year's collection rate. He reported that Bristol Superior Court closed on 08/30/19 and future contributions will be reflected in the New Britain Superior Court collection figures.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program – October 01, 2018 – September 30, 2019*. Jim explained that Domestic Violence is not a separate crime type and is reflected on multiple line items; primarily Assault. He also stated that DUI/DWI statistics are for non-fatal cases. DUI/DWI fatalities are included in the Homicide line item.

##### b) OVS Update

Tina Bouchard reported that:

The Training and Outreach Unit in SFY 2018 – 2019:

- Provided 30 training sessions to mandated audiences (Judges, Judicial Branch Marshals, Probation Officers and Prosecutors) with 824 attendees. The training sessions include information about OVS programs and services, how to work with crime victims, how to provide trauma informed care, and orders of protection.
- Provided 11 training sessions to victim assistance contractors with 211 attendees. The training sessions include information about the Victim Compensation Program, Court Process, Orders of Protection, CT SAVIN, Victims' Rights, Vicarious Trauma, and Recordkeeping and Reporting.
- Provided 18 training sessions to other audiences (victim panels, victim assistance agencies, colleges and universities) with 551 attendees.

- OVS staff members attended 74 in-service, 31 Judicial Branch, and 23 external training sessions. The training sessions include Sexual Harassment Awareness, Power of Diversity, Phishing Awareness, ADA training, VOCA conferences, and trainings hosted by other victim assistance agencies such as CCADV, CT Alliance, MADD, and FBI, for example.
- Provided 5 training sessions for 142 interns. Judicial Branch interns received training on OVS programs and services and for those entering the court a more in-depth training on the role of the OVS advocate in the court.
- Provided 5 resource tables at various venues for professional conferences, health fairs, college fairs, and other community events to distribute OVS materials and raise awareness about OVS services.
- Provided 21 training sessions to 696 attendees from hospitals, police departments and advocacy agencies on the SAFE Program.
- The Unit is responsible for distribution of OVS publications to contractors, court service centers and public information desks located in courthouses, law and public libraries, hospitals, police departments, colleges and universities, community-based programs, other agencies throughout the state, and to OVS staff.

Linda Cimino reported that:

- The internal job posting for a Victim Services Advocate (VSA) assigned to the HelpLine closed today. The second VSA will assist with the volume of calls and provide assistance at Sentence Review and in certain courts.
- The number of victim compensation applications received as of 10/31/19 is 1,296 which is 159 less than the same time in 2018, but 505 more than the same time in 2017.
- In 2020, working with the Office of Policy and Management and the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission Victims Issues Sub-Committee, the Judicial Branch will be undertaking a CT Victimization Survey or Victim Needs Assessment. Judge Patrick L Carroll III approved this project using VOCA administered funds to pay for the survey. For the first time in CT there will be a document that reflects the level of crime as represented by victims. This report will augment the information presented in the Connecticut Uniform Crime Reporting Program which reports only reported crime.
- The OVS Biennial Activities Report (10/01/17 – 09/30/19) is currently under development and due to the General Assembly by 01/15/20.

- The Fall SAFE training class is in its third phase. There were twenty two students, four will be part of the SAFE Program and eighteen from hospitals, who completed the forty-two hour didactic training. All of the students successfully completed the Clinical Training Days. For the rest of this week the students will be participating in mock exams.
- The SAFE Advisory Committee has met twice and is reviewing the elements of the enabling legislation and assigning tasks.
- The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) issued a press release regarding multiple reports that the OVC's office's name is being used as part of an imposter scam.

5. New Business

Gerrie Wild distributed information about Safe Connect, the latest initiative of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV). Gerrie invited Council Members to meet in February 2020 at CCADV's new location in Glastonbury. A brief overview and a tour of CCADV's new offices and the Safe Connect program will be provided.

Andrew Woods reported that Hartford Communities That Care will host a legislative forum with Congressman John Larson and State Majority Leader Matt Ritter on Monday, December 16, 2019, (3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) to review and learn about policy recommendations that could aid victims of violent crime and their families. The forum is open to the public.

Yvette Young reported that she will speak on Child Trafficking as one of eight speakers to participate in a Tedx at Infinity Hall in Hartford on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, (5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.).

6. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder