

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 13, 2012

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room from 2:05 p.m. to 3:53 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Anna Doroghazi for Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Robin Montgomery, Brian Moore, Susan Omilian, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Kevin Lawlor, and Rocco Tricarico

OVS Staff Present:

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

Guest:

Mary Fetchet, Founding Director of Voices of September 11th

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the October 3, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of October 3, 2012. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. OVS Update
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget statement for month ending 10/31/12. Jim reported that total expenditures are \$939,000 with obligations of \$699,000, equaling 51% of the budget. Jim explained that this is an increase compared to only 34% of the budget expended during the same time last year. Jim attributed the higher percentage of obligations this year to the rise in homicide compensation claims in which loss of support was awarded.

Jim reported that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2012-2013, is not complete, but a 6 month projection will be available at the next Council meeting.

Members discussed the fund balance as well as the projected date of depletion of the fund balance.

Steve requested that Linda Cimino make an inquiry to the Judicial Budget and Planning Unit regarding a plan to address funding issues.

Jim also reported that the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations approved new reimbursement rates, effective December 1, 2012, for hospitals, medical providers, and child advocacy centers. The maximum reimbursement will remain at \$900 per case, however, specific reimbursement rates have been established for child cases seen at the child advocacy centers. Changes were necessary due to budget constraints for the program and the need to eliminate duplicate reimbursements for hospitals and child advocacy centers that see the same clients. The Commission will review expenses in 6 months to see if any savings were achieved with the new rates before deciding on whether or not to approach the legislature for additional funding.

Linda reported that Council member Kimberly Joyner resigned from the Judicial Branch and that her position will be filled.

Linda provided an update regarding the strategic planning exercise that Council members participated in during the last Council meeting. Linda explained that the strategic planning exercise was also completed by the Office of Victim Services (OVS) management team, the OVS central office staff, and the OVS victim services advocates. The next step will be a meeting with a representative from each of the 4 groups that completed the exercise and Joe D'Alesio, executive director of court operations.

Linda also reported that Hurricane Sandy, which occurred last week, had minimal impact on operations. Steve informed members of programs that are available to help victims of Hurricane Sandy.

4. Mary Fetchet, Founding Director of Voices of September 11th
Learning from 9/11: Providing programs that address long-term need and promote resiliency in those impacted by traumatic events

Mary Fetchet, founding director of Voices of September 11th, provided a presentation about the impact of the September 11th tragedy as well as other national tragedies on victims and their families.

Members discussed the Voices of September 11th organization and the services that the organization offers to victims and their families.

Steve requested that contact information for Voices of September 11th be e-mailed to members.

5. 2013 Meeting Dates
A schedule of 2013 meeting dates will be e-mailed to members.
6. New Business
Steve reported that the Commission on Judicial Compensation has invited Council members to submit either written or oral testimony to assist the Commission in the determination of possible changes to judicial salaries. Members discussed the opportunity for their agencies to submit testimony.
7. Adjournment
Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder