

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 13, 2018

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Judge Danaher, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Dan Cargill on behalf of Gerrie Wild, Laura Cordes, Doreen Del Bianco, Kristina M. Gonzalez, David Lawrence-Hawley, Jessica Pizzano, Josie Robles, Deborah Witkin, Yvette Young

Members Excused or Absent:

Linda J. Cimino, Michelle Lettieri, Kristan Mangiafico

OVS Staff Present:

Valina Carpenter, Rachel McKnight, James Morgan

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.

Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 11, 2018. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

2. Legislative Updates and Review

Laura Cordes, representing the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, discussed the platform of Governor-elect Ned Lamont which includes preserving state funding for Sexual Assault Services and Domestic Violence Services as well as extending Connecticut's statute of limitation on sexual assault crimes and supporting efforts to ensure that Connecticut quickly and effectively processes sexual assault evidence collection kits.

Brian Austin, representing the Chief State's Attorney's office, stated that he will provide an update when the new co-chairs of the Judiciary Committee are known and their priorities.

Deb Witkin, representing CT Legal Services (CLS), stated that CLS will be looking to defend any potential cuts in Medicaid, Renters Assistance, and other services that will impact clients.

Jessica Pizzano, representing Survivors of Homicide (SOH), reported that SOH will be monitoring any potential changes in Youthful Offender statutes.

Susan stated that the Council will discuss any potential issues that would impact victim services and any specific legislation. She reported that the legislative session starts January 9, 2019.

3. Update on Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Findings and Recommendations

Dan Cargill distributed and reviewed the *2017-2018 Report of the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Task Force and Frequently Asked Questions*. There was a discussion on the report among Council Members.

4. Update on Governor’s Sexual Assault Kit Working Group

Laura Cordes distributed and reviewed a presentation on *Governor’s Sexual Assault Kit Working Group: Progress Report on Testing & Reform*. Laura reported on the Kit backlog on a national level and progress made on untested Kits in Connecticut.

Laura distributed and reviewed the *Governor’s Sexual Assault Kit Working Group Victim Notification Guidelines, February 2018*.

5. OVS Compensation Program Overview

This report was tabled to the meeting on February 5, 2019, due to time limits.

6. OVS Report

Fiscal Unit:

James Morgan distributed and reviewed the Office of Victim Services *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 10/31/18, FY 07/01/18 - 06/30/19*. Jim reported that disbursements through 10/31/18 were \$190,000 higher than disbursements through 10/31/17. Jim stated that in the prior year the state budget funds were not available until December 2017 due to the budget impasse.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2018 - 2019*. Jim reported that court collections through 09/30/18 were consistent with amounts collected in the prior year.

Victim Services Unit:

Valina Carpenter reported on the schedule for the premier of the OVS videos:

November 14, 2018	Production crew and actors
November 30, 2018	OVS Staff members
January 8, 2019	OVS 40 th Anniversary Celebration

Valina reported that the event to celebrate OVS’ 40th Anniversary will be at the Connecticut Legislative Office Building on January 8, 2018, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Council members will receive their invitations within the coming weeks.

Valina reported that the start date is December 7, 2018, for 2 new Victim Services Advocates that will fill vacancies in New London and Wethersfield.

7. New Business

Laura Cordes reported that Susan Omilian and Kristina Gonzalez were recipients on November 9, 2018, of the *First 100-Plus Year of the Woman Award* by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) “recognizing women leaders working to improve the lives of domestic violence survivors across Connecticut.”

Susan reported on the free My Avenging Angel Workshops™ that she will be conducting in February and March, 2019 for women who have experienced abuse and who wish to take the journey from victim to survivor to thriver.

For the February 5, 2019 agenda Rachel McKnight will report on the OVS Compensation Program Overview. Also, Council Members will view the OVS videos and learn more about how they will be available to the public.

For the April 16, 2019 agenda Deb Witkin will do a presentation about CT Legal Services, in particular, the <https://ctlawhelp.org/en/home> website that provides legal information to consumers. She'll also talk about the legal work specifically being done on domestic violence/sexual assault victim issues.

8. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder