

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 17, 2009

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, from 2:06 p.m. to 3:23 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Fernando Betancourt, Joseph Bibisi, Larry Bostrom, Chester Brodnicki, Janice Heggie Margolis, Nancy Kushins, Kevin Lawlor, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Steve Eppler-Epstein, Cheryl Burack, John Duffey, Jo-Ann Miller, Neil O'Leary, and Erika Tindill

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Tina Bouchard, Joanna Buikus, Valina Carpenter, and Brenda Jordan

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and welcomed members. Judge Carroll amended the agenda to include approval of the July Council meeting minutes.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the July 21, 2009 Meeting

Judge Carroll asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 21, 2009. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. 2010 Meeting Schedule

Members agreed to continue to meet the third Tuesday of the odd month for the 2010 calendar year. The next meeting will be held January 19, 2010.

Linda Cimino informed Council members that the Council term ends July 2010. An e-mail to Council members will be sent in early 2010 to determine interest in serving another term.

4. OVS Update

Jim Morgan reported on the following

- The state audit review was completed.
- The October Victims of Crime Act assistance grants have not been appropriated yet. Federal legislation is pending that will raise the VOCA cap by twenty percent.

- Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund court collections are lower than normal; however, the first quarter of recovery money collected is almost half of the entire amount collected last year.

Tina Bouchard reported on the following trainings, outreach initiatives, and publications:

- Training on crime victim sensitivity was provided to Jury Administration managers and staff.
- Training on OVS services and victim issues was provided to a senior center in Waterbury.
- Trainings on OVS services and victim issues will be provided to funeral service professionals on November 18, 2009, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence family violence victim advocates on November 19, 2009, and Judicial marshal recruits on January 6, 2010.
- OVS had informational tables at the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) annual walk and the Senior Living Expo. OVS will have an informational table during the December criminal justice career fair at Naugatuck Valley Community College.
- The Sexual Assault booklet and OVS all service brochure will be translated in Spanish. The personal injury application is being revised for plain language.
- The OVS director was a guest on three radio shows – Middletown, Waterbury, and Willimantic.

Valina Carpenter reported on the following activities of the Victim Services Unit:

- A victim services advocate position (VSA) was posted externally last week to fill two VSA positions at central office. The current VSA in this position will transfer to the Meriden Geographical Area (GA) court.
- The beta test period of the victims' services satisfaction survey was completed. As of October 2009, all of the court-based (non-Juvenile) VSAs are required to send five surveys a month for the next three months.
- VSAs are reviewing the draft form of the Victim Services Unit policies and procedures for needed changes.
- OVS is participating in the Judicial Branch Intern Program. Two interns have been placed with the VSAs in the Hartford GA and New Haven Judicial Districts.
- VSAs received information on the services offered by the federal bureau of investigation in October and will receive information on social networking in December.

Joanna Buikus reported on the following for the Compensation Unit:

- As of November 16, 2009, 876 victim compensation applications were received [during the 2009 calendar year].

- In the first quarter of state fiscal year 2009-2010:
 - ◆ 453 determinations were made: 295 claimants were approved, 85 claimants approved without payment, and 73 claimants not eligible.
 - ◆ Five claims were compromised. The compromised claims totaled more than \$200,000 with OVS issuing payment of \$62,000.
 - ◆ Fourteen reviews were requested and thirteen reviews were held.

Members watched a short video on the VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) program. Linda reported that a federal grant of \$190,000 that requires a 50 percent state match was received to implement a statewide-automated victim notification system. The Judicial Branch has contracted with the VINE vendor, Appriss of Louisville, Ky.

Linda stated that the implementation would consist of three phases. The committee established to oversee the implementation of the program is conferring on which notification elements will be operational first. The program will be an open-system so that anyone can register for notification. Registration and notification is available via telephone, cell phone, or e-mail and Spanish translation will be available. A script will be drafted that will be provided to the main victim service support groups for feedback. The maintenance of the program will cost approximately \$390,000 a year.

Linda also reported on the following:

- OVS has a new general e-mail address that will be posted on the OVS Web page. The central office VSA will handle the account.
- In October, Tina Bouchard and Mark Margolis received the MADD victim assistance awards and Janice Heggie Margolis was recognized by the National Organization of MADD with the Robert C. Shearhouse Employee of the Year award.
- The 2007-2009 biennial activities report was forwarded to a graphic design firm for layout. The report is due to the Judiciary Committee by January 15, 2010.

5. 2009 Legislative Update

Jim reviewed a spreadsheet of the projected financial position of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund through fiscal year 2010-2011. The Special Session transferred some of the expenses from the State OE in state fiscal year 2009-2010 that may impact contractual services, as it is unclear if the balance of the expenses (\$270,000) has been eliminated from the OE expense line. Jim stated OVS would know about the balance by December 1, 2009. The estimated fund balance for June 30, 2011 is one million.

Linda reported that legislation passed that establishes a sexual assault forensic examination program. The legislation also directs the formation of an

advisory committee in the planning of the program. The committee's first meeting will be held November 30, 2009.

Linda reported that Public Act 09-07 transferred \$1 million from the Division of Criminal Justice to the Office of Victim Services for reimbursement of kits and to order kits. Joanna reported that as of November 1, 2009, 97 victims received kits and \$134,000 was paid in reimbursement.

6. 2010 Legislative Proposals

Linda distributed and reviewed a document containing legislation proposed by OVS for the 2010 legislative session.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported that MADD is supporting legislation that mandates ignition interlock devices for first offenders of drunk driving.

Larry Bostrom reported that federal House Bill 3695, Help Find the Missing Act, sponsored by Representative Chris Murphy (D-CT), would have agencies cooperating and sharing information.

7. New Business

No new business was introduced.

8. Adjournment

Linda adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder