

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 19, 2013

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 3:50 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Robin Montgomery, Susan Omilian, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Joseph Bibisi, Karen Jarmoc, Kevin Lawlor, Brian Moore, and Rocco Tricarico

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Tina Bouchard, and Katie Nesta

Guests:

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the September 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 17, 2013. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. CICF Update
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget statement for month ending October 31, 2013*. Jim reported that total revenues are \$196,000 higher than last year due to more federal money being used. Jim also reported that total obligations are \$166,000 higher than last year due to the rise in homicide related compensation claims in which loss of support was awarded.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *CICF Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014*. Jim reported that total revenues are \$55,000 higher compared to last year. Jim also reported that expenses are \$235,000 lower than last year due to grant payments that were moved from the CICF to state funds.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *CICF Contributions for State Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014*. Jim reported that court donation collections are \$110,000 higher than last year. Jim also reported that Bridgeport, New Britain, Norwich, Rockville, and Stamford courthouses account for 55% of total collections.

Members discussed the fund balance and the rise in court donations.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Fund FY 2013 – 2014 Monthly Activity Report through October 31, 2013*. Jim reported that to date \$218,000 was received in donations for the fund, but collections are decreasing each month; last month the fund only received \$200 in donations. Jim also reported that most of the applications do not have any losses at this time, only 1 has recurring payments.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Forensic Evidence Program - Summary of Hospital Payments Report July 1, 2009 – October 31, 2013*. Jim reported that there have been a total of 5,500 forensic sexual assault kit reimbursements since the Office of Victim Services (OVS) started processing payments in 2009, 50% of which are patients between the ages 0-12 years old.

Jim also reported that reimbursement claims were exceeding appropriations each year, and at the end of fiscal year 2011 - 2012, a total of \$342,000 was unable to be paid. Jim reported that a committee was developed to contain costs; as a result, new rates were implemented in December 2012, saving a total of \$170,000 to date. The main change was a cap on multiple reimbursements for patients under 17 years old who were seen at multiple facilities. Under Public Act 13-247, OVS received a one-time allocation of \$300,000 from Probate Court surplus funds to cover most of the debt.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Forensic Evidence Collection Program - Summary of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT)/Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) Forensic Interview Payments Report for month ending October 31, 2013*. Jim reported that to date there have been a total of 407 reimbursements equaling \$107,000.

4. Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program (SAFE) Update
Denise Covington provided a PowerPoint presentation on the SAFE Program outlining the development of the Program since its start on December 2, 2010.

Members discussed the SAFE Program.

The Council authorized Steve to send letters of appreciation to leadership in the Judicial Branch, OVS, and the participating hospitals thanking each for their role in the success of this program.

5. 2014 Meeting Dates

Linda reported that the scheduled dates for the 2014 Advisory Council meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday, January 21, 2014
- Tuesday, March 18, 2014
- Tuesday, May 20, 2014
- Tuesday, July 15, 2014
- Tuesday, September 16, 2014
- Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Linda reported that the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Chief Court Administrator, and Attorney Joseph D'Alesio, Executive Director of Court Operations, will attend the Council meeting in January.

Linda reported that at the March Council meeting there will be a presentation on trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder from Julia O'Sullivan, who was a victim of a home invasion.

Linda reported that there will be an Active Shooter Training at the May Council Meeting.

Linda also reported that the Council term ends in July 2014 and requested that Katie e-mail members to see who would like to serve on the Council again next term.

6. New Business

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

Robin Montgomery reported that he was unable to get statistical data regarding human trafficking victims.

7. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder