

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 18, 2008

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, from 2:07 p.m. to 3:39 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Joseph Bibisi, Larry Bostrom, Chester Brodnicki, John Duffey, Kevin Lawlor, Agnes Maldonado, Janice Heggie Margolis, Nancy Kushins, and Jan VanTassel

Members Excused or Absent:

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Fernando Betancourt, Cheryl Burack, Jo-Ann Miller, and Neil O'Leary

Presenter:

Joseph D'Alesio, Executive Director, Superior Court Operations

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Valina Carpenter, Brenda Jordan, and Susanne Pakele

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Steve Eppler-Epstein welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.
2. Review and Approval of the September 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 16, 2008. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. 2009 Legislative Initiatives
Steve reported that the Legal Services network would seek assistance from the legislature to find a solution to a huge funding shortfall. The Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, which accounts for two-thirds of the network's funding, has collapsed, and the programs are facing the likelihood of cutting services and staff by one-third or more.

Agnes Maldonado reported that the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is seeking funding for staffing of twenty-four hour domestic violence shelters.

Nancy Kushins reported that Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services is seeking support on the development of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program.

Chet Brodnicki reported that the child guidance clinics task force is looking at reimbursement rates for funding from the Department of Children and Families.

Jan Van Tassell stated that Connecticut Legal Rights Project is also facing budgetary

cuts and added that private non-profits are also seeking cost of living adjustments.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported that Mothers Against Drunk Driving continue to advocate for an open container and ignition lock device legislation. The ignition interlock legislative proposal will be dubbed "Leah's Law," in memory of Leah Hall who was killed in 1995 by a repeated drunk driving offender.

4. Judicial Branch Strategic Plan Presentation

Joseph D'Alesio, executive director of Superior Court Operations provided members with an overview of the Judicial Branch strategic plan and implementation plan.

5. New Business

OVS Updates: Linda Cimino provided the following updates

- A Request for Proposal soliciting vendors for the implementation of a statewide-automated victim notification program will be posted. The federal grant is due January 8, 2009.
- In a collaborative effort between OVS, CONNSACS, and the Victim/Survivor Advocacy Council (V/SAC), the Connecticut sexual assault brochure is under revision. OVS will maintain the production of the brochure. A draft is scheduled to be provided to the V/SAC at their December meeting.
- A fifth victim compensation commissioner was appointed by the governor.
- Linda announced that she sits on the Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities Task Force with Chief O'Leary and Agnes Maldonado.
- Linda distributed to Council members revised victim rights booklet.
- Linda proposed to the co-chairs agenda topics for 2009. Linda will distribute the topics to Council members via e-mail.

Chet announced that Clifford Beers Clinic and the Mashantucket Pequots will co-host a Family Violence and Child Trauma Conference on February 5-6, 2009, at Foxwoods Casino. Chet will forward the save-the-date to Brenda Jordan, who will e-mail to Council members.

Steve inquired if Linda had received a response on the support letter submitted by the Council. Linda stated that she did not and will follow-up with Joseph D'Alesio at their next meeting.

6. Adjournment

Steve called for a motion to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Brenda Jordan, Recorder