

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
January 17, 2012

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, from 2:04 p.m. to 3:58 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Chester Brodnicki, Laura Cordes, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Kevin Lawlor, Robin Montgomery, Brian Moore, and Susan Omilian

Members Excused or Absent:

Co-Chair Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Joseph Bibisi, Antonia Cordero, Kimberly Joyner, Rocco Tricarico, and Jan VanTassel

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, Joanna Buikus, Valina Carpenter, Brenda Jordan, James Morgan, and Katie Nesta

Guest:

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Coordinator, and Joyce Karrfalt, Account Manager, Appriss

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed new Council member Brian Moore, who replaced Daniel F. Lewis. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the November 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 15, 2011. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. OVS Updates
Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Program Budget Statement for month ending 12/31/11. Jim reported that the total current expenditures are \$1,235,029 plus obligations of \$468,157, equaling 54.84% of the budget. Jim explained funds are sufficient to meet obligations for this fiscal year; an attributing factor to this is that the number of claims are down compared to last year.

Jim reported that it is projected that the CICF may be depleted and have to rely solely on collections in SFY 2014-2015. A meeting is scheduled with the executive director of Court Operations to review the budget.

Jim also reported that OVS will be audited over the next 2 months.

Valina Carpenter reported on Public Act 11-51, Section 22-25, Risk Reduction Earned Credits for Inmates. The Public Act became effective October 1, 2011. Under the Public Act, inmates can earn up to 5 days per month off their sentence. These credits may be earned by adhering to his or her offender accountability plan, participating in eligible programs and activities, good conduct and obeying institutional rules. These credits may also be revoked for non-compliance with programmatic requirements or behavioral misconduct.

Inmates convicted of the following crimes are ineligible for credits; murder, capital felony, felony murder, arson murder, 1st degree aggravated sexual assault, and home invasion. Implementation of the Public Act is retroactive to April 1, 2006, but credits cannot reduce a mandatory minimum sentence.

Valina explained the impact that the change has had on victims as well as the impact on notification to victims.

Members further discussed the impact and requested information on the new legislation.

Joanna Buikus provided members with a handout of the Compensation Unit's first quarter statistics for fiscal year 2011-2012. The statistics are as follows:

- 194 claimants were found eligible for compensation.
- 168 victim files were found eligible for compensation.
- 1 file was compromised.
- The average claim processing time is 5.67 months.
- 12 reviews were requested, with 10 reviews held.

Members discussed compiling more concrete statistical data for compromised claims and claim processing time.

Brenda Jordan reported that the OVS all service brochure has been printed in Spanish and made copies available to members.

Denise Covington provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 163 completed cases from December 2, 2010, to December 31, 2011. The statistics are as follows:

- Hartford Hospital had the highest number of cases totaling 56 cases.
- Sundays had the highest number of cases totaling 36 cases.
- 39% of patients were between the ages of 25-59.
- 53% of patients were of Caucasian ethnicity.
- The average time of a case (admission to discharge) is 3 to 4 hours.
- 39% of cases are reported to the police and the offender is non-stranger.

Linda Cimino reported that to date SAVIN has provided 47,000 phone and 34,000 e-mail notifications. Linda also reported that Connecticut will be the first state in the country to provide notifications in Polish and the Web site's home page will be translated into Spanish.

4. Ignition Interlock Device Presentation
Janice Heggie-Margolis provided a demonstration on how the ignition interlock device works and provided members with a handout outlining the new ignition interlock device laws.
5. GBS SAFE Program First Year Recognition
Laura Cordes reported that a one year anniversary reception for the SAFE Program will be held on January 26, 2012, at 225 Spring St., Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A flyer announcing the event was provided to members.
6. Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN)
Joyce Karrfalt, Account Manager, Appriss provided a presentation on the SAVIN Program. Joyce demonstrated the registration process as well as obtaining reports and other statistical information.
7. New Business
Susan Omilian provided a handout to members on upcoming My Avenging Angel Workshops to be held in February and March.
8. Adjournment
Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder