

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**April 11, 2023**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met via Microsoft Teams.

**Members in Attendance:** Co-Chair Judge Laura F. Baldini, Co-Chair Yvette Young, Lisa D'Angelo, Kenisha Farquharson on behalf of Beth Hamilton, Michelle Lettieri on behalf of Bob Garguilo, Irene Mikol, Marc Pelka, Lee Ross, Gerrie Wild, Deborah Witkin, Andrew Woods

**Members Excused or Absent:** Amy Lupoli, Susan Omilian, Jessica Pizzano, Ebonie Suggs

**OVS Staff in Attendance:** Mary Kozicki, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Guest in Attendance:** Krystal Rich, Chavon Campbell, Johanna Schubert

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Announcements  
Co-Chair, Yvette Young, opened the meeting at 3:01 p.m.  
Council Members and OVS Staff introduced themselves.
2. Approval of February 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes  
The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Presentation on Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Task Force  
Krystal Rich, Executive Director, Connecticut Children's Alliance (CCA), provided an informational presentation about the *Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Task Force* which included the mission, development, objectives, current data, and trends.

She shared information about the following:

- Hartford's State's Attorney, Sharmese Walcott, and CCA collaborated to apply for a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime based on the needs of Adult and Child victims of Human Trafficking to develop this task force
- The 17 Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) in CT which consist of law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, medical, mental health, advocacy, and forensic interviewers that work with CCA to provide services to victims of sexual and labor trafficking
- The Response Team, Taskforce Council, Regionalized Taskforce Model, Referral Sources, case demographics, success examples, early challenges, next steps, and a list of agency partners.

Council members discussed issues related to the ratio of traffickers to victims, prevention, intervention, prior victimization, training provided to casino staff members to recognize behaviors, legal services partnerships, and specially trained law enforcement team members.

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4. Legislative Updates

Gerrie Wild reported on:

*Senate Bill No. 5, An Act Strengthening the Protections Against and Response to Domestic Violence*, which expands the electronic monitoring program for family violence offenders and prohibits the court from ordering an injured spouse to make temporary or permanent alimony payments to a spouse who is convicted of criminal attempt or conspiracy to commit murder or manslaughter, and a few other felony convictions.

*Senate Bill No. 1118, An Act Establishing the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council*, which seeks to establish a new advisory council to assess and provide guidance regarding the state's criminal justice response to domestic violence by the expansion of Connecticut's Alert Notification/GPS Program for high risk domestic violence offenders and provides notification to victims and the implementation of specialized domestic violence dockets focusing on victim safety, offender accountability, and services to both.

Andrew Woods reported on the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Coalition and the collaboration efforts to request lawmakers to provide funding to support violence prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery programs specific to community violence across the state of Connecticut.

Mary Kozicki reported on *House Bill No. 6874, An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations, the Sharing of Judicial Branch Records, and the Award of Damages in Certain Civil Matters* which seeks to expand access to juvenile and youthful offender proceedings to the next of kin of victims.

5. Update on the services provided by Hartford Communities That Care

Andrew Woods, Executive Director, Johanna Schubert, Director of HVIP Collaborative, and Chavon Campbell, Director of Compliance and Quality Assurance, provided an informational presentation on the services provided by Hartford Communities That Care (HCTC).

Information was provided about the following:

- Hartford Care Response Team and CT Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) Collaborative
- Demographic details
- Hartford Care Response Team Service Model
- CT HVIP Collaborative as a statewide initiative
- New Visions Alternative School
- Needs Assessment Identified Areas of Improvement
- HCTC Stakeholder Feedback
- Marketing and Branding
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit, Saturday, April 29, 2023
- HCTC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, Thursday, June 15, 2023

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Council members discussed the successful outcomes of the New Visions Alternative School.

6. Victim of Crime Act Funding Update

James Morgan reported:

- The Director for the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provided a monthly update on the Federal Crime Victims Fund (the Fund)
- The federal fiscal year (FFY) started on October 1, 2022. Deposits into the Fund as of February 28, 2023, are \$544 million for the first five months of the FFY
- The balance in the Fund as of February 28, 2023, is \$1.92 billion dollars which equals the authorized appropriation of \$1.9 billion for FFY 2023
- Deposits into the Fund for the remaining seven months of the FFY will be used to replenish the fund balance
- On April 6, 2023, the Office for Victims of Crime released the state victim assistance grant allocations for FFY 2023. CT's allocation will be \$14.7 million which is a 5.6% reduction from the FFY 2022 award
- President Biden's FFY 2024 budget request includes an appropriation of \$1.2 billion from the Fund for OVC programs. This represents a 37% decrease from the FFY 2023 appropriated amount
- *Senate Bill No. 5 "An Act Strengthening The Protections Against and Response to Domestic Violence"* includes funding requests of \$13.1 million in FY 2024 and \$20 million in FY 2025 to OVS for services to crime victims to offset continued reductions in VOCA funding
- OVS will update the Council with the status of the Fund at the June meeting.

7. New Business

Mary Kozicki reported that to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) OVS has coordinated educational and outreach opportunities which include the following:

- OVS is hosting a five-day Contractor Spotlight virtual training
- Information about OVS programs and services was mailed to the Human Services Departments in all of Connecticut's towns and municipalities
- The Judicial Branch website and the Judicial Branch Twitter account will post information to promote NCVRW.

8. Adjournment

Co-Chair, Judge Laura F. Baldini, adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder