

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**May 7, 2018**

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:10 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:**

Co-Chairs the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, and Susan Omilian; Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Olivia DeFilippo for Laura Cordes, Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández, Janice Heggie Margolis, Karen Jarmoc, Kristan Mangiafico for Karen Martucci, Deborah Witkin

**Members Excused or Absent:**

Antonia Cordero, Melissa Farley, Steven Hernández, David Lawrence-Hawley, Thomas J. Wydra

**OVS Staff Present:**

Valina Carpenter, Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome  
Judge Danaher opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Council members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the April 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes  
Judge Danaher requested an amendment be made in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Update, Paragraph 3, to remove Connecticut State Police and replace with law enforcement officers. Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 5, 2018. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as amended.
3. Presentation: *Vicarious Trauma: How to Manage the Fire without Getting Scorched by the Flames*  
Mary O'Sullivan introduced herself and distributed copies of the PowerPoint presentation. Mary explained vicarious trauma as the process through which a worker's experiences are negatively transformed through empathetic engagement with others. The worker is both a witness and a participant in the traumatic re-enactments.  
  
Council members discussed issues related to vicarious trauma.
4. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update  
James Morgan distributed and reviewed the Office of Victim Services *Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 04/30/18, FY 07/01/17 - 06/30/18*. Jim reported that the expenses through April 30, 2018, are \$60,000 lower than what was expended through April 30, 2017. He stated that the number of claims received is higher than last year at this time but the reimbursable expenses have not increased.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2017 - 2018*. Jim reported that court collections through March 2018 are \$309,000 below March 2017 and \$570,000 below March 2016.

5. OVS Update

Linda Cimino reported that:

- 529 Victim Compensation applications have been received as of Friday, May 4, 2018, which is an increase compared to last year at this time. The increase in applications received is due to legislative changes and outreach work to heighten awareness of the Victim Compensation Program.
- In April 2018, the SAFE Program held a 40 hour training course for 6 nurses. The goal for the number of active SAFE's is 38. Currently, there are 28 active SAFE's. Also, training sessions are now being provided to hospitals medical providers that are not in the SAFE program.
- Training sessions to review revisions to the Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault will be held at the State Forensic Laboratory. Hospital personnel may attend June 4, 2018 or June 8, 2018.
- This is the last meeting of the 2014-2018 term for this Advisory Council.
- OVS and Middlesex Community College Corporate Media Center are expected to have completed the production of educational and instructional videos by early September.

6. Legislative Update

- Brian Austin and Karen Jarmoc reported that the Connecticut's family violence arrest law (46b-38b) has been amended by S.B. 466, *An Act Concerning Dual Arrests and the Training Required of Law Enforcement Personnel with Respect to Domestic Violence* to include a dominant aggressor provision to help reduce the high dual arrest rate in the state. Dominant aggressor laws guide police officers to arrest only the party they deem to pose the most serious ongoing threat or to be the most significant aggressor. Karen noted that 27 states have dominant aggressor laws; ten states mandate arrest of the dominant aggressor.
- Karen also discussed the passage of S.B. 1011, *An Act Increasing the Marriage License Fee and Surcharge* which increased the marriage license surcharge to \$35. The additional money collected by municipalities with the surcharge will support direct services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Janice Heggie Margolis reported on:

- o Janice discussed H.B. 5579, *An Act Concerning Costs for Ignition Interlock Device Services for Persons Who are Indigent and are Seeking Restoration of a Motor Vehicles Operator's License*, passed the House and was heading to the Senate. This bill allows a discount or waiver to the ignition interlock device fees for an individual who provides proof of participation in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Olivia DeFillipo reported on:

- o S.B. 1042, *An Act Concerning the Statute of Limitations for the Prosecution of Sexual Assault*. This bill increases the criminal statute of limitations for sexual assault crimes in Connecticut from 5 years to 10 years. This bill was voted out of the Judiciary Committee, passed the Senate and was on the House calendar.
- o S.B. 17, *An Act Concerning Procedures Related to Collecting and Processing Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits*, was on the Senate calendar.

7. New Business

Susan Omilian congratulated Judge Danaher on his reappointment as a judge of the Superior Court.

Brian Austin reported that OVS will provide a presentation on the Victim Compensation Program and CT SAVIN at the Chief State's Attorney's office on May 24, 2018.

Linda Cimino reported that Laura Cordes and Janice Heggie Margolis will participate in a panel discussion hosted by Governor Malloy on May 30, 2018.

Susan reported her new book, *Staying in the Survivor Zone*, will be released on October 18, 2018, which is the anniversary of her niece Maggie's murder by her ex-boyfriend in 1999.

8. Adjournment

Judge Danaher adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder