

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
May 9, 2017

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Conference Room 4B, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-Chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Laura Cordes, David Lawrence-Hawley, David Snyder for Karen Martucci

Members Excused or Absent:

Antonia Cordero, Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Steven Hernandez, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Karen M. Jarmoc, Deborah Witkin, Thomas J. Wydra

OVS Staff Present:

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Susan Omilian opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.
2. Approval of the March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Council members deferred approval of the March 7, 2017, meeting minutes to the July 11, 2017 council meeting, due to the lack of a quorum.
3. 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 04/30/17, FY 07/01/16 - 06/30/17*. Jim reported that the total amount of disbursements as of April 30, 2017, were \$2,141,773.71 compared to \$2,138,655.00 as of April 30, 2016. Jim stated that through April 30, 2017, payments have been processed related to 649 claimants at an average of \$3,300.00 per claimant.

Jim reported that during July 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017, there were 760 new claims and 188 additional claims on existing files compared to 711 new claims and 189 additional claims on existing files for the time period July 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016. He stated there is an increase in claims being processed, but the level of payments is about the same as the prior year.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152) FY 2016 - 2017*. Jim reported that court collections are \$260,854 below FY 2015 - 2016 collections through March 31, 2016. The average amount of court collections for FY 2016 – 2017 is \$163,699

per month. The average amount of court collections for FY 2015 – 2016 was \$195,450 per month through March 31, 2016.

Council members expressed concern regarding the impact the state budget reduction of per diem prosecutors has had on the amount of court collections made to the CICF.

4. State Budget Roundtable Discussion
Council members discussed the projected state budget and how the possible reduction in funding could impact services to victims and how the agencies that they represent are preparing for the changes.
5. Discussion of Issues in Current Legislative Session
Council members discussed how the possible statutory changes could have an impact on the OVS Victim Compensation Program.
6. Update on Judges' Institute Class Proposal and CT State Police Academy Training Opportunity
Judge Danaher reported that he has prepared a power point presentation regarding judicial interaction with victims of trauma. That power point will be presented to Superior Court judges at the Connecticut Judges' Institute in June 2017. The presentation includes several training videos, and Judge Danaher will present and discuss those training videos at the next council meeting in July 2017.
7. OVS Update
Linda Cimino provided the following OVS updates.
 1. Crisis Planning:
 - The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) provided a crisis response training for members of the OVS staff, Judicial Branch, State Police, and Survivors of Homicide on April 24-26, 2017.
 - The crisis response protocol is being updated based on the NOVA training and lessons learned from our response partners; the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), American Red Cross and the Emergency Management structure.
 - Linda Cimino, Valina Carpenter, Rachel McKnight, and two members of the Judicial Branch, will be participating in two (3) hour Regional Emergency Response Exercises on May 24, 2017. The exercise is to test the response to a biological terrorism attack.
 2. Discretionary Training Grant:
 - On February 7, 2017, a training session, *The Trauma of Victimization and How to Find Your Way Back to Compassion*, focusing on trauma and self-care was attended by over 80 victim service providers.

- On March 23, 2017, a training session, *CT Criminal Court and Criminal Orders of Protection and Civil Orders of Protection and Victim Notification Programs* was attended by over 80 victim service providers.
 - On June 15, 2017, a training session, *Understanding the Complexity of Grief Associated with Violent Death*, will address complicated grief with a presentation by Survivors of Homicide, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.
 - OVS staff members and the Middlesex Community College Corporate Media Center have held two meetings regarding the development of the educational videos intended for victims of crime.
3. Compensation Program:
- As of May 8, 2017, there have been 294 applications processed which is higher than the amount at this time in 2016, 2015, and 2014.
 - CLOVS, the victim compensation database, is in the beginning phase of a rewrite to the program.
4. Training & Outreach:
- Overall the unit is very busy. Recent training sessions include certification training for new SAFE's and Compensation Program training for the sexual assault crisis services programs in New Britain and Meriden and victim service providers in Newtown.
5. SAFE Program:
- For 07/2016 – 04/2017 there were 178 responses. Overall, there has been an increase in the number of activations. In April 2017, there were 39 activations.
 - Six new SAFE's attended the April training class.
 - Denise Covington is submitting recommendations on the Revision of the Technical Guidelines and CT100 materials. Both products will need approval by the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations.
 - The number of active SAFEs is continuing to decline.
6. Publications:
- JD-VS-2S, *Victim Rights and Services* (English/Spanish), are available now. English/Polish and English/Portuguese will be available soon.

- JDP-VS-11, *Notification Programs to the Victim*, will soon be available in Polish and Portuguese.
- JDP-VS-10, *Compensation for Crime Victims* (Spanish), is under revision.

8. New Business

Laura Cordes distributed information and explained about the State of Connecticut Sentencing Commission, Special Committee on Sex Offenders, public input survey for Connecticut residents to identify concerns related to sex offender sentencing, the State of Connecticut Sex Offender Registry, and the management and supervision of sex offenders who re-enter the community on probation or parole. The link for the public input survey will be emailed to the council members.

Council members agreed to invite Abby Anderson, Executive Director of the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance to the council meeting in July.

9. Adjournment

Susan closed the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder