

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
May 17, 2011

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, from 2:08 p.m. to 3:56 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair Steve Eppler-Epstein, Antonia Cordero, Jan VanTassel, Daniel F. Lewis, Karen Jarmoc, Susan Omilian, Kimberly Joyner, Rocco Tricarico, and Nancy Kushins

Members Excused or Absent:

Deputy Chief Court Administrator the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III, Joseph Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Kevin Lawlor, Robin Montgomery, and Janice Heggie Margolis

OVS Staff Present:

Linda J. Cimino, James Morgan, Brenda Jordan, and Katie Nesta

Guest:

Brian Testut, Epidemiologist, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Steve Eppler-Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the March 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Steve asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 15, 2011. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Discussion: Retail Workplace Violence Special Emphasis Project
Brian Testut, Epidemiologist of the Connecticut Department of Public Health provided a presentation regarding the Retail Workplace Violence Special Emphasis Project. The project focuses primarily on retail stores, convenience stores, and gas stations. Once implemented, the program will play a preventive role in workplace violence, which includes a checklist evaluation after a robbery and various outreach programs.

Linda Cimino explained the compensation statute requirements that effect victims of workplace violence. Linda stated there would have to be both physical injury and mental anguish for a victim of workplace violence to be eligible for compensation.

Steve suggested adding compensation statute limitations and broader statistical data associated with workplace violence to the agenda for future meetings.

4. OVS Updates

- Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 4/30/2011. Jim reported the volume of claims received is about the same, yet OVS is paying out less. Based on current expenses, the budget should break even this year. Jim explained that current revenue is estimated at 3 million, with 3.4 million needed to maintain budgeted expenses.

Steve asked what the fund balance would be at the end of the fiscal year. Jim stated 1.8 million will remain based upon current estimated revenues and expenses.

Jim reported the grant amount for contractors has not been released. To date, there is enough funding to support the current programs at their current cost. OVS is waiting for funding information from the Office for Victims of Crime before making any decisions on increasing funding for current contractors or funding new programs. A new list of contractors will be provided in July.

- Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification

Linda reported the following statistics on the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification collected from 08/26/10 to 04/30/11.

- 23,939 site searches
- 7,803 registered, 98% registered thru VINE link
- 23,640 telephone notifications; 3,309 confirmed
- 20,360 e-mail notifications, less than 1% undeliverable

- Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program

Linda reported there have been a total of fifty cases among the six hospitals since the program started on December 2, 2010. As of April, the program has been operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Linda stated that 28 nurses are in the process of completing the clinical portions of the training.

Linda also reported that the SDFI software was installed in the participating hospitals and it is anticipated the technology will be used as of the fall.

Nancy Kushins reported on the success of the partnership between CONNSACS and the SAFE program.

Steve asked if an evaluation is in place for the program. Nancy explained an evaluation is under development.

Nancy reported a save the date announcement went out for an upcoming two day statewide conference titled "Systems in Sync: Responding to Sexual Assault in Connecticut" that will be held June 16 and June 17, 2011 at Central Connecticut State University.

- Compensation Program Survey
Council members received drafts of the Compensation Program survey with corresponding cover letter. Brenda asked members to review the materials for comments and/or suggestions.

Brenda explained the history of the compensation surveys per a request from Linda.

Brenda also explained she is in the process of developing a database to track information from the surveys. Brenda stated that out of the 245 surveys that were mailed in the first quarter of this fiscal year, 21% were returned.

Brenda explained a trial period for the surveys will begin June 1, 2011, and last through October 2011.

5. Council Updates

Steve combined the Legislative Updates with Council Updates.

Linda reported a save the date announcement went out for a conference titled "Social Networking: Changing the Rules" that will be held on September 27, 2011. Linda explained the conference will consist of three speakers, two of which are Cynthia Fraser and Jayne Hitchcock. The conference is for law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates and will be free.

Kimberly Joyner reported that an additional docket dedicated to domestic violence was implemented in the Danielson court house.

Antonia Cordero reported on the success of the anti-violence course available at the University of Connecticut. Antonia stated the course will become a part of the curriculum and thanked Susan Omilian for working with the students.

Karen Jarmoc reported that the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is anticipating two domestic violence bills to be passed. Karen also reported on the release of td411, a software application designed to bring awareness about teen dating violence and electronic victimization.

Nancy reported on the continuation of various legislative priorities including updating Connecticut stalking laws, strengthening sexual assault laws to protect people with disabilities, and providing paid sick leave to Connecticut workers.

Susan reported on an upcoming conference titled "The Thriver Tour: An Evening of Spirit & Song" that will be held on October 15, 2011, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Joseph College. A save the date card was provided. Susan also distributed a handout on an upcoming "My Avenging Angel Workshops; Living Well is the Best Revenge."

Linda reported on the anticipation that S.B. No. 1224 passes. The bill expands compensation eligibility for victims of sexual assault when a police report has not been issued.

Steve reported on the consolidation of online information to help limited income people find help for their legal problems on ctlawhelp.org. Steve also reported a video will be available within the upcoming weeks that will help people prepare for court proceedings.

Steve reported that a conference that will be held in September or October by the Pro Bono Committee to encourage more law firms to get involved in pro bono work. Steve also reported that the Access to Justice Commission is scheduled to have its first meeting in June.

6. Legislative Updates

Legislative Updates were combined with Council Updates.

7. New Business

Members discussed the state's budget implications, including the possible closing of prisons and its effect on housing and jobs.

Linda reminded members of the GPS System presentation that is on the agenda for July 19th meeting.

8. Adjournment

Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder