

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 18, 2014

The Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the Office of Victim Services conference room from 2:05 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Co-chair the Honorable John A. Danaher, III, Co-chair Susan Omilian, Brian Austin, Jr., Joseph W. Bibisi, Chester Brodnicki, Antonia Cordero, Melissa Farley, Janice Heggie Margolis, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Karen Jarmoc, David Lawrence-Hawley, Robin Montgomery, David Snyder for Karen Martucci, and Deborah Witkin.

Members Excused or Absent:

Laura Cordes

OVS Staff and Guests Present:

Linda Cimino, Brenda Jordan, James Morgan and Jean Weisbrod

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Susan Omilian called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Susan inquired how a quorum is defined for the Council. An OVS staff member responded that a quorum is 2/3 of the Council membership.

Susan asked members to introduce themselves and to provide the name of their agency or their affiliation with crime victims. Members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the September 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Judge Danaher asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 16, 2014. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Update

Jim Morgan distributed and reviewed the *Office of Victim Services Criminal Injuries Compensation Program Budget statement for month ending 10/31/14, FY 07/01/14 – 06/30/15*. Jim reported that of the total \$3.1 million appropriated funds, \$943,749 was disbursed with \$2.1 million funds remaining for current obligations. Jim stated that there is a significant decrease in the value of claims ready for determination in comparison to the October 31, 2013 report. This decrease is a result of the efforts of the OVS claims supervisor, who eliminated the backlog of claims pending determination.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) Contributions (P.A. 06-152), Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015*. Jim reported that as of September 30, 2014, the gross amount collected is \$503,676. Members discussed the difference in donations from courts within the same district. Attorney Brian Austin volunteered to speak with Chief State's Attorney, Kevin Kane, regarding the inconsistent contributions to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund from various Judicial Districts.

Jim distributed and reviewed the *Sandy Hook Worker's Assistance Fund FY 2014-2015 Monthly Activity Report*. Jim reported that to date \$387,887 donations were received with OVS issuing \$196,765 in payments to applicants.

4. Presentation: Ignition Interlock Device

Janice Heggie Margolis provided a demonstration on how the Ignition Interlock Device works. Janice reviewed the cost of installation and monthly fees. She noted that the device must be installed on all vehicles registered by the offender. Janice explained there are currently 3,500 devices in use in Connecticut. Janice explained the purpose of the device is to change behavior and not to be a punishment.

Currently, the ignition interlock device is required for repeat drunk driving offenders; as of July 1, 2015, under new legislation passed by the CT General Assembly this year, first time offenders will now have to install an approved ignition interlock device. Janice shared that research shows that license suspension alone is no longer a practical way to deal with drunk drivers, as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers will continue to drive even with a suspended driver's license.

Janice distributed to members the MADD Connecticut 2014 *We Walk Because* report.

5. Presentation: Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission

Mui Mui Hin-McCormick presented on the services offered by the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC). She emphasized the growing number of residents in the Asian Pacific American community in Connecticut and their rising need for services, such as medical care and education. In particular, she shared that victim services programs need to have culturally responsive support, particularly in cases of domestic violence and sex crimes.

Mui Mui distributed and reviewed the *APAAC Data Report*, the *APAAC Language Card*, and the *Connecticut APAAC Community Roundtable Invitation*.

Members discussed the language barrier and how it affects the ability to provide services to the Asian Pacific American community as well as other minority communities in Connecticut.

6. Office of Victim Services Program Updates

Linda Cimino provided an update on the implementation of Public Act 14-217, An Act Implementing Provision of the State Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015, Section 186-190 that addresses civil restraining orders.

Linda reported that she attended public hearings conducted by the Victim Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission, of which she is a member. At the public hearings, victims shared their experiences, any barriers they encountered, how the system responded, as well as suggestions to improve the system. A report from the Victim Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission is due to the Governor in January 2015.

Linda reported on several OVS training and outreach efforts including trainings provided to Judicial Branch staff, police departments, hospitals, victim advocates, and OVS funded contractors.

Linda also reported that in October, OVS co-sponsored with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a Death Notification Workshop attended by police chaplains and officers.

7. New Business

Susan asked for volunteer presenters for the next Council meeting. David Snyder will present on the notification services provided by the Department of Correction, Victim Services Unit. Karen Jarmoc, co-chair of the Restraining Order Task Force will report on the Task Force findings.

8-9. Adjournment and Office of Victim Services Administrative Office Tour

Susan Omilian adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m. to allow Council members to tour OVS Central Office and meet staff.

Jean Weisbrod, Recorder