

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Victim Issues Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

10:00am – 11:30am

Hybrid Meeting

Microsoft Teams/OPM, 450 Capitol Avenue, Conference Rm 2A, Hartford, CT 06106

Facilitation: Liza Andrews

Note Taking: Bridget Koestner

Present: Liza Andrews, Bridget Koestner, Barbie Curatolo, Linda Cimino, Lisa DAngelo, Gerrie Wild, Gail Hardy, Jessica Pizzano, Mary Kozicki, Michelle Lettieri, Dorian Long, Gretchen Marin, Andre Simons, Richard Sparaco, Marc Pelka, Valina Carpenter, Kevin Neary

- Welcome, Introductions, Approval of February Minutes
 - Meeting minutes - all in favor with one abstention (due to absence from last meeting)
- Statewide Victimization Survey Update
 - Hopeful to have fact sheets available in the coming weeks
 - Will discuss how to disseminate information, including fact sheets
- Discussion with Invited Guests
 - Gail Hardy, Executive Assistant State's Attorneys
 - Issue of victim advocates being unable to access reports
 - Issue of domestic violence cases being called before advocates have an opportunity to offer victim input or victim impact statement
 - Can be based on volume of cases, availability of judges. Happens in pockets; not a large scale/statewide issue.
 - Dorian Long, Department of Social Services
 - Domestic Violence cash program – partnering with CCADV with cash assistance benefits program
 - Lisa DAngelo, Executive Assistant State's Attorneys
 - Issues during post-conviction proceedings
 - Calling victims decades after victimization is challenging for a number of reasons. This issue often comes up due to retroactive statutes.
 - Cases that are pre-OVS registration require locating victims
 - Victims sometimes feeling like they are not being prioritized
 - Cases keep getting continued
 - Being mindful of victims who chose not to be notified
 - Challenge of social media and phones
 - Sometimes phones have been banned from these proceedings
 - Victim and witness privacy and safety concerns when videos are taken of them or other identifying information is put on social media
 - Agencies that offered support with notification and post-conviction proceedings:
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence post-conviction victim advocacy program,

Alliance's Victims Rights Center of CT legal program, Survivors of Homicide advocates, CCADV advocates

- Important to remind advocates that victim compensation may still be available
 - CCADV training regarding victim impact statements, may be opened up to state's attorneys offices
- Commutation hearings - Since Jan 2023, 22% decrease in applications. Since Sep 2022, 78% decrease. Requests have already peaked after processing the backlog.
- Data Workgroup Update
 - Group has been meeting and progress will continue
 - Bottom-up approach; reviewed models that can be considered
- 2023 Legislative Issues
 - VOCA funding
 - In the last meeting, we discussed the Governor's proposed funding for FY24. Still a need for funding in FY25.
 - VOCA assistance grants could be further reduced based on the federal budget.
 - Monthly receipts reports can be included on our agenda.
 - This is a long term discussion/funding issue that extends even beyond FY24/25.
 - CCADV
 - SB5 - victim services funding, expansion of DV GPS monitoring program, etc.
 - Alimony - prohibition from collection in certain cases
 - New DV advisory council to pull together all CJ related issues
 - OVS
 - Juvenile justice bill - would require OVS to create a second compensation program for all property crime victims.
 - The Alliance
 - SB1117 - trafficking bill, accommodations for victims of trafficking/SV
 - HB6569 - age of marriage bill
 - SB1178 - expanding paid sick days
- Programmatic Updates
 - CCADV - grant funded family law legal consult program rolling out in phases, starting yesterday (Mar 15-May 15)
- Discussion/Review of Available Grants
 - Byrne JAG is still open. Connect with Marc with any questions.
 - Byrne SCIP updates on Thursday, March 30th at CJPAC meeting
 - OVW – solicitations still open, more information available on website
- Adjournment
 - Next meeting - April 19th