

CJPAC, Victim Issues Subcommittee Meeting

January 18th, 2023
Microsoft Teams

Facilitated by: Liza Andrews, co-facilitator
Notes by: Bridget Koestner, co-facilitator

PRESENT: Kevin Neary, Valina Carpenter, Emily Burnett, Linda Cimino, Gerrie Wild, Joanne Vitarelli, Joe Garibaldi, Mary Kozicki, Ebony Suggs, Michelle Lettieri, Richard Sparaco, Marc Pelka, Barbara Curatolo, Jessica Pizzano

Statewide Victimization Survey

- Progress has been made in the last few months
- Looking to create fact sheets this spring regarding specific crime experiences, and will bring it back to the group

Data Workgroup

- Trying to get a group together to consider what metrics can be regularly reviewed
- Setting up monthly workgroup, will start meeting in the next few weeks
- If anybody else is interested, reach out to Kevin Neary.

Continuing Commutations Conversations

- Survivors of Homicide met with legislators to discuss this current issue.
- BOPP has updated how they put together notes from these meetings and include more information.
- In order to get the meeting minutes, FOIA request needs to be filed. Survivors may need support with this process and there is a small cost associated.
- Data/numbers likely to change in time, because there is a backlog currently being addressed.
 - Individuals are available to reapply three years later, but only based upon new circumstances that receive approval
- Commutation videos are on website, but recordings are not published. Instead, meeting minutes are released.
- Is there API or BJS data that can be reviewed so we can compare trends in CT to other states?
- We need to ensure that victims are contacted early during this process, especially if they are not registered with SAVIN and searching is needed. How can we increase victim input at the pre-screen juncture, given that it seems that this is where important commutation decisions are made?
 - Families who have had notification had a generally good experience.
- No policy recommendations at this time, but this remains a live issue

Policy Updates

- Gap in VOCA funding remains a priority for many agencies
 - Letter regarding funding for FY24 and FY25 has been authored by the Alliance and CCADV with additional nonprofits
 - Long term funding options to address the deficit? We need to consider how CT can fund victim services.
- CCADV: VOCA, advisory council to look at the issue of domestic violence in the criminal justice system

Updates/Announcements

- Byrne JAG:
 - grant funds designed to be flexible to meet needs, fill gaps, etc.
 - Eight states have had their funds withheld due to immigration related issues. CT pursued litigation with other states as funds were withheld. In 2021, orders rescinded by current administration, and withheld funding was restored
 - 2.3 million allocation
 - A number of goals have been identified for this funding
 - Grant application is live for those who are interested
 - Email will be going out with links to website, application, etc.
- Byrne SKIP
 - Requires the state to create an advisory council to oversee the program. CJPAC would fill that role.
 - 2.5 million to be divided between state and local projects
 - Will know more at the March meeting and provide more information then.
- OVW offering discretionary grant programs for those who are eligible
 - New applicants given preference
 - Emily happy to provide TA through this process
 - Available on their website at this time.
- NEXT MEETING: February 15th, 2023 at 10am