

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee
Victim Issues Subcommittee

October 20, 2021 Minutes

Present: Marc Pelka, Kevin Neary, Maurice Reaves, Patrick Lakha (OPM), Linda Cimino (OVS), Richard Sparaco (BOPP), Jessica Pizzano (Survivors of Homicide), Michelle Lettieri (MADD), Liza Andrews, Geralyn O'Neil-Wild, Beck Cyr (CCADV), Lucy Nolan, Maura Crossin, Asia Nhatavong (CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence); Natasha Pierre, Vanessa Torres (OVA)

Lucy called the meeting to order at 10:01am

Welcome and Introductions

- Lucy welcomed everyone and guests introduced themselves

August Meeting Minutes

- Acceptance of minutes moved by Marc Pelka, seconded by Liza Andrews; unanimously accepted

Statewide Victimization Survey Update – provided by Linda Cimino, OVS

- Majority of survey responses online, only a few chose to take the survey by phone
- Near 1200 surveys completed – looking to get more responses in Litchfield and Middlesex Counties; still 5 weeks for the survey portion of this process so they are confident they will reach their response goals
- Demographics of respondents are tracking with overall Connecticut demographics, except they are receiving more responses from females, which is common among all types of surveys
- Have entered second phase of data collection – individual interviews for those who respond to the initial survey that they are willing to provide more information; 130 have offered to complete interviews and the RFP allows for 50 interviews; expect interviews to be completed by end of November
- Raw data expected by December

Trends in CT's Criminal Justice System Report

- Marc & Kevin provided an update on OPM's Criminal Justice Division annual report on trends in the criminal justice system, which will be updated as a result of recent legislation
- Looking for victim-related data from CT organizations to include; Kevin has already received data from OVA; The Alliance and CCADV will provide data
- Plan to also use National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) – Marc reviewed 2020 NCVS results, which show a decrease in crime reporting (both property & violent crime) to police although it's unclear if the pandemic affected the data
- Various subcommittee members discussed annual service statistics that show an increase in victim services over the past year
- Asia suggests looking at co-occurring victimization

Victim-related Data Points for Monthly Report-out at Full CJPAC Meeting

- Patrick reviewed the existing OPM Criminal Justice Division Monthly Indicator Report
- Suggestions for victim-related data points to include in a monthly report-out:
 - Gerrie - restitution stats from OVS

- Lucy - sexual assault kit #s from OVS
- Linda offered to request monthly RO and CPO data from Judicial
- CCADV will provide monthly LAP data and contacts to the statewide domestic violence hotline

Member Updates and Announcements

- OVA is working with Judicial on administrative policy and consistency across courthouses for enforcement of victim rights

Other Business

- Possible recommendations for raising up victim needs throughout systems:
 - Every state agency should have the CT SAVIN button on its website
 - Judicial should first call cases with victims present
- Discussion of prosecutorial e-data collection system and ensuring that advocate/victim input is appropriately captured; this data collection system is still being populated so will continue to work with DCJ on this process; could advocates be allowed to upload victim input in the future?

The meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

December 15, 2021
February 16, 2022
March 16, 2022
April 20, 2022
May 18, 2022
September 21, 2022
November 16, 2022