

# CJPAC, Victim Issues Subcommittee Meeting

February 15th, 2023

Microsoft Teams & In-person

OPM

450 Capitol Avenue, Conference Rm 2A

Hartford, CT 06106

Facilitated by: Bridget Koestner

Notes by: Liza Andrews

PRESENT: Kevin Neary, Valina Carpenter, Emily Burnnett, Gerrie Wild, Joe Garibaldi, Michelle Lettieri, Richard Sparaco, Marc Pelka, Barbara Curatolo, Jessica Pizzano, Andre Simons, Natasha Pierre

## Welcome, Introductions, Approval of January Minutes

- Acceptance of January meeting minutes moved by Marc Pelka, seconded by Rich Sparaco, unanimously accepted

## Committee Structure Discussion

- Meeting Format
  - Marc provided feedback about virtual vs. in-person or hybrid meetings
  - Members discussed
  - Consensus – hybrid meeting option staying under CJPAC
- Objectives and goals
  - Members discussed overall objective and goals for the group, which included proceeding with the data workgroup with the goal of giving Marc data to bring back to the full CJPAC; the data workgroup may also ultimately be able to inform the monthly indicators report and annual trends presentation
  - Maintaining this meeting as an open discussion space on various issues impacting victims with the goal of, as needed, providing feedback on issues, concerns, etc. to the full CJPAC;
  - Marc suggested a recurring agenda item for distributing info that other members may not be aware of and that can be shared with the full CJPAC; discuss/review available grants; could help with messaging around victimization survey; data workgroup can inform monthly indicators report, annual trends presentation
- Member composition:
  - Members discussed the addition of other possible members

## Data Workgroup

- Kevin provided an update:
  - Use bottom-up approach to data collections – look at what is already being reported, definitions being used, what is being duplicated, what needs to be added (environmental scan of the landscape);
  - Initial bi-weekly meeting schedule;
  - Possible questionnaire for landscape scan;
  - Long-term goal of connecting outputs to outcomes

## **2023 Legislative Session Updates**

- Discussion on state funding request to address reduced VOCA funding
  - Thanked Governor for proposed FY24 ARPA allocation to cover gap;
  - Need for additional advocacy for FY25 funding;
  - Need to have longer-term discussion about state funding of victim services
- CCADV provided an update on VOCA advocacy; SB 5 (Senate Democratic Caucus domestic violence priority bill); proposal for a domestic violence criminal justice response advisory council; relief from coerced debt
- OVA discussed HB 6636 (prevent BOPP from issuing pardons if a standing criminal protective order is in place; require offender to first get the order removed) and HB 6637 (ensure victims have participatory rights in violation of probation/conditional discharge hearings)
- Survivors of Homicide discussed supporting FY25 VOCA funding; SB 952 (broadening parole eligibility for crimes committed prior to the age of 25); HB 6510 (designating awareness month for survivors of homicide)

## **Updates/Announcements**

- Valina – Byrne JAG nonprofits have reached out to OPM to get guidance on applying; OPM application for Byrne SCIP approved, will next announce funding opportunity, application, etc.
- Emily – VAWA has released discretionary grant opportunities, working with potential grantees on support for individuals with disabilities; happy to help potential grantees navigate application even when OPM is not appropriate applicant
- Marc will reach out to DSS (CT's federal Family Violence Prevention & Services Act administrators) and the Chief State's Attorney's Office to attend the next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21.

## **2023 Meeting Schedule**

March 15, 2023

April 19, 2023

May 17, 2023

June 21, 2023

September 20, 2023

November 15, 2023