

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee
Victim Issues Subcommittee

May 18, 2022 Minutes

Present: Marc Pelka (OPM), Mary Kozicki (OVS), Richard Sparaco (BOPP), Jennifer Rossi, Michelle Lettieri (MADD), Liza Andrews (CCADV), Lucy Nolan, Ashlei Biggs (CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence), Ebonie Suggs (DOC)

Lucy called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Welcome and Introductions

- Lucy welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves

April Meeting Minutes

- Acceptance of April minutes moved by Richard Sparaco, seconded by Liza Andrews; unanimously accepted

Research & Data Update – provided by Marc Pelka, OPM

- OPM is still planning a meeting with Judicial Branch Court Operations to discuss what type of restraining order/civil protection order data can be added into CJPAC's monthly indicator report. Marc shared the existing annual RO/CPO data report - https://jud.ct.gov/statistics/prot_restrain/
- OPM will look to engage victim service organizations for discussion about possible victim service system data to include in OPM's annual report regarding criminal justice system trends as required by PA 21-97
 - Case disposition data is pending from Judicial Branch Court Operations for inclusion in the annual report; Kevin is meeting with CSAO to determine if anything from e-prosecutor will be available for the report

Statewide Victimization Survey Update – provided by Mary Kozicki, OVS

- Trends in responses from both violent and non-violent crime victims will help guide the efforts of OVS to serve all crime victims
- Issues echoed from both victim and provider perspectives are consistent
- OVS will have the executive summary and focus group report by end of May and the stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 10th

2022 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

- VOCA gap funding for FY23 passed in the final budget; it will be funded using one-time ARPA funds
- Lucy discussed a working group on child grooming and possible criminal penalties that was included in the budget implementer (*HB 5506, Section 218*), as well as a working group to examine sexual exploitation on the internet (*HB 5243*) – the Alliance will participate on one or both groups; The Alliance anticipates bringing its consent bill (*HB 5472*) back next session and will work on education in the interim

- Mary discussed expansion of victim compensation to include children who have been the subject of substantiated child abuse by DCF provided that the person responsible for the abuse has been placed on DCF's child abuse & neglect registry (*PA 22-47, Section 65*)
- Liza discussed SB 5 and mandatory training for state employees on domestic violence as well as the addition of domestic violence as a protected class in housing, employment, public accommodations and credit transactions (*PA 22-82, Sections 8-21*)

Restorative Justice Discussion

- Lucy discussed the need to ensure that when restorative justice is used, it is focused on the needs of the victims, as in certain past circumstances it has appeared more focused on the needs of the offender; the practice has been more frequently used on college campuses and can work in that setting given shared peer groups; both criminal justice and restorative justice options should be available but the choice of which path to take should be up to the victim
- Rich believes there can be an appropriate place for using restorative justice as a healing model and its use should be voluntary
- Marc discussed looking at the juvenile justice system and what is being done with restorative justice there, as well as its inclusion in youth service bureaus
- Mary agrees that the decision to participate in restorative justice must be up to the victim; victims need to be part of the conversation when developing these policies
- Rich mentioned models in Vermont & Pennsylvania that may be worth looking at (<http://cjnvt.org/>)
- Group discussed pulling together resources, case studies, etc. on restorative justice – Lucy, Liza, Rich, Ebonie, Marc & Michelle

Member Updates and Announcements

- Rich welcomes any feedback from victim service organizations on the Board's commutation hearing process as they've had several recent hearings

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

September 21, 2022
 November 16, 2022