



KEVIN T. KANE  
CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

State of Connecticut  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OFFICE OF  
THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

300 CORPORATE PLACE  
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067  
TELEPHONE (860) 258-5800

March 20, 2009

Darlene Johnson  
Deputy Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
U.S. Department of Justice  
800 K Street NW, Suite 920  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Deputy Director Johnson:

In regard to working with state or local victim services programs, each aspect of this project involves intense interagency cooperation. All of the Division of Criminal Justice's Family Violence Units have and will continue to work closely with family violence victim advocates and other victim service providers. Each of these units will continue to participate in local multi disciplinary team efforts. Feedback on program strategy and tactics is solicited from victim service providers on an ongoing basis and is incorporated into each iteration of the Division's application for VAWA funding.

As a specific example: a more detailed account of cooperative activities performed by the Bridgeport Unit (from the Division's 2008 VAWA application):

"The Domestic Violence Unit in Bridgeport at GA 2 works very closely with the six court victim advocates from the Center for Women and Families, a non-profit organization. The prosecutors interact with the advocates on a daily basis with regard to cases that are on the Arraignment Docket as well as on the regular Domestic Violence Docket and the Pre-trial Docket.

The prosecution in Bridgeport has developed a "team" approach to prosecuting Domestic Violence cases. Very early on it became apparent that meeting with the Court-based Victim Advocates, police officers assigned to domestic violence, detectives assigned to domestic violence, facilitators for the batterers' program (EVOLVE, formerly called The Intensive Domestic Violence Program), counselors from the Alternative to Incarceration Center, Department of Children and Families Investigators, and probation officers was the most efficient way to evaluate high risk offenders, maintain cooperation between all

Page 2:

agencies, enhance communication with victims and each other, the overall goal of such a collaboration being the successful prosecution of domestic violence offenders.

The Domestic Violence Team meets once a week to discuss the progress of offenders who have been placed in batterers' counseling, substance abuse programs, etc. The Team also discusses high risk offenders, policy issues, victim concerns, and any other issues that arise."

As a prime proponent of victim-centered prosecution within Connecticut, the Division finds the expertise and input of victim services programs to be nothing short of invaluable as it refines its programming with the goal of maximizing offender accountability, victim safety, victim security, and victim satisfaction.

The Division of Criminal Justice looks forward to continued collaboration with the Office of Justice Programs towards our joint goal of responding to crimes against women.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell S. Forman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "F" at the end.

Mitchell S. Forman

Manager -- Grants and Contracts.