



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
Psychiatric Security Review Board

July 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to notify you of the Board's collaboration with the Office of Victim Services to enhance support and resources available to victims of crimes by persons committed to the jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board.

As the Executive Director of this Agency for the past two years, I have had the opportunity to have at least one hearing for each person committed to our jurisdiction. During this time, it became overwhelmingly clear that victims felt underrepresented during the hearing processes. To help address this, I reached out to various agencies known to support victims of crime throughout the State of Connecticut.

I am pleased to share that we have embarked upon a collaborative effort with the Office of Victim Services to mitigate the issue. Effective September 2023, hearing notices will include contact information for a Victim Services Advocate who will be available to support you as you navigate upcoming hearing processes, including accompaniment to the hearing as requested.

The Victim Services Advocate will have completed intensive training to better understand Board processes and protocols and the statutes that govern the Board. In addition to accompaniment to hearings, advocates can provide information about or respond to questions related to compensation, notification, and referrals to available supportive services for crime victims. If you would like additional information about the services available through the Office of Victim Services (OVS), please contact OVS at 800-822-8428.

I will also remain available to answer any questions and strive to be a resource for information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the number below.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vanessa Cardella".

Vanessa Cardella, LCSW  
Executive Director  
Psychiatric Security Review Board

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Kozicki".

Mary Kozicki  
Deputy Director  
Office of Victims Services