

**MINUTES**  
**Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime**  
**June 4, 2024**  
**225 Spring Street, Room 4B, Wethersfield, CT**

**Members in Attendance:** Co-Chair Yvette Young, Lisa D'Angelo, Anne Louise Blanchard for Debi Witkin, Emily Burnett, Michelle Chamberlain for Bob Garguilo, Beth Hamilton, Irene Mikol, Susan Omilian, Jessica Pizzano, Lee Ross

**Members Excused or Absent:** Judge Courtney M. Chaplin, Amy Lupoli, Ebonie Suggs, Gerrie Wild, Andrew Woods

**OVS Staff in Attendance:** Mary Kozicki, James Morgan, Marc Pelka, Jean M. Weisbrod

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Announcements

Co-Chair, Yvette Young, opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. Council and OVS Staff members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the April 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented. Susan Omilian and Anne Louise Blanchard abstained because they were not present for the April 23, 2024, meeting.

3. Violence Against Women Act Grant Programs Overview

Emily Burnett provided an overview of the Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Department of Justice Grants.

The overview included information regarding:

- Office of Justice Programs
  - Bryne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
  - National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)
  - Bryne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP)
  - Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Formula Grant Programs
  - STOP Violence Against Women Program (STOP)
  - Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)
- Allocations 2020 – 2023
- Current Subrecipients

4. Legislative Updates and Implementation Planning

Mary Kozicki reported on:

*Public Act No. 24-108, An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings.* The changes include removing the requirement that a victim receive treatment through services to demonstrate emotional harm, extending the time period to file a claim for compensation from 2 to 3 years, the elimination of the requirement to report an offense to the police within 5 days, permitting a victim to make a statement to the court prior to the acceptance of any plea agreement, not only in instances when the defendant pleads to a lesser offense, expanded reimbursement for pecuniary losses related to victims attending Psychiatric Security

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Review Board hearings, and increases the CT Advisory Council for Victims of Crime Advisory Council to 20 members and adds representation from victims of gun violence.

*Public Act No. 24-127, An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Sexual Assault*, expanded *Connecticut Domestic Violence Resources* (notepad) *JDP-VS-52*, to include resources for victims of sexual assault, which is distributed by first responders.

*Public Act. No. 24-5, An Act Concerning Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Statutes*, a change in the language that will allow OVS to contribute up to the total amount in lost wages.

Susan Omilian reported on:

*Senate Bill No. 123, An Act Concerning Coerced Debt*, to provide that no individual shall cause another individual to incur a coerced debt and establish procedures to review documentation to determine whether debt is coerced debt, and bring an action to establish whether debt is coerced debt.

5. OVS Publications

Marc Pelka and Mary Kozicki provided information to support introducing a new design for the OVS publications and Judicial Branch website to provide consistency and help avoid confusion and give clarity for victims of crime and others that seek services from OVS.

Council members discussed issues related to replacing the OVS logo with a Judicial Branch design.

6. Victim of Crime Act Funding Update

Marc explained the decline in VOCA funding and how it will impact Connecticut victim service provider agencies.

Council members discussed strategic plans to manage the decline in VOCA funding.

7. New Business

Susan Omilian distributed information about *My Avenging Angel Workshops™*

8. Adjournment

Yvette Young adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder