

V. R. E. A. C

Victims' Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission

Draft Minutes
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014
Legislative Office Building, Room 1B
300 Capitol Ave., Hartford
2:00 – 4:00p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions ---The meeting was called to Order at 2:09 pm
 - a. Membership Introductions

Members Present: Hakima Bey-Coon, Esq., Merit Lajoie, Hon. Elliott N. Solomon, Deputy Chief Court Administrator (in place for Hon. Patrick Carroll, III), Linda J. Cimino, Laura Cordes, Carleton J. Giles, Jennifer Rossi (in place for Janice Heggie Margolis), Kevin T. Kane, Esq., Dawn Luddy, Bethany Phillips, Esq., Jessica Pizzano, James C. Rovella, Dora B. Schriro, Susan O. Storey, Esq., Andrew Woods, and Scott Semple.

Members Absent: Ana Gonzalez, Karen Jarmoc, Jillian Knox, Mario T. Gaboury, Esq., and Anne Mahoney, Esq.
 - b. Approval of the Minutes – October 15, 2014

There were no changes to the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kevin T. Kane, Esq., and seconded by Laura Cordes.
 - c. Commission Correspondence

A victim, Lynda Faye Wilson, who testified at a prior public hearing sent a copy of their testimony to the Office of the Victim Advocate to disseminate to commission members.
2. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Pre-arrest/Arraignment

Commissioner Schriro stated that the subcommittee is progressing rapidly and are almost complete reviewing the statutes.
 - b. Prosecution/Conviction

Chief State's Attorney Kane noted that their subcommittee has not met since their last full commission meeting. They are waiting until the next public hearing to meet.
 - c. Post-conviction/Violation status

Interim Commissioner Semple noted that the subcommittee recently met and were working on creating a document to present in front of the commission soon.
3. Discussion Topics
 - a. Suggestion by Donna Palomba to have a presentation by Susan Herman

- i. After discussion of the commission, there was an agreement to reach out to Susan Herman and invite her to speak to the commission.
 - b. Recommendations from victims to be distributed to the subcommittees for review and consideration
 - i. Hakima Bey-Coon advised members to review the recommendations and identify issues they also heard during the public hearings. As a result, they can go back and compare the material and disseminate the new information.
 - ii. Members spoke about the importance of notification systems and will continue to review these recommendations during their upcoming subcommittee meetings.
 - c. Whether Commission members would like an opportunity to provide input at an upcoming Commission meeting
 - i. There was an overall agreement to have commission members present and speak at a regularly scheduled commission meeting.
 - ii. Andrew Woods, Jessica Pizzano, Laura Cordes, and Dawn Luddy would like to speak in front of the commission at the next meeting. Jennifer Rossi indicated that Janice Heggie Margolis may wish to provide input as well.
 - iii. Merit Lajoie recommended reaching out to Jillian Knox in regards to the establishment of a Victim Services Unit in a police department.
 - iv. Members agreed that inviting the Police Chiefs Association and other guests to hear this information would be beneficial.
 - d. Name change for the Office of the Victim Advocate
 - i. Commission members acknowledged the confusion with the title of the Office of the Victim Advocate. Members suggested different ideas to change the name and agreed to move away from the word advocacy. It was agreed that the commission will continue to examine this issue.
4. Public Comment
No public comment.
5. Other Business
No other business.
6. Wrap Up – Public Hearing Schedule

November 5, 2014 (Norwich) Three Rivers Community College (The Multipurpose Room), 6:00-8:00 p.m.

November 12, 2014 (Bridgeport), Housatonic Community College (Lafayette Hall), 6:00-8:00 p.m.
7. Next Meeting Date – November 19, 2014
8. Adjournment at 2:48 pm