



**Attorney General's Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2019; 1:30 to 3:00 pm
DPSST Board Room**

Committee:	<u>Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement</u>
Attendees:	Ashley Anstett, Debra Bridges, Alison Bort, Dana Vidoni Carelle, Hon. David Delsman, Saydyie DeRosia, Rhea DuMont, Jeff Howes, Debbi Martin, Robyn Masella
Phone Attendees:	Cliff Bacigalupi, Rosemary Brewer, Marc Brown, Matt English, Matthew Lawson, Sarah Purce, John Stein
Guests:	None
CVSSD Staff Attendees:	Helen O'Brien, Sherree Rodriguez, Shannon Sivell (phone)

Welcome – Helen O'Brien welcomed the Task Force (TF).

Minutes – The group approved the minutes from the July meeting.

New Best Practice document review

The group reviewed the draft for "*Honoring a Victim's Right to Information about Defendants and Youth Offenders*," best practice document, providing feedback.

There was a discussion regarding strategy for "*Adding Criminal History to Victims' Rights Request Form*". To avoid conflict with the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) guidelines, a victim could request criminal history early on in the process. Helen suggested adding that as an option on the form. Many District Attorneys' offices provide this information in verbal form. The best practice document should be completed by January.

Grand Jury Recordation and Victims – Jeff Howes

Multnomah County reported that they had at first tried to avoid bringing victims to the Grand Jury to avoid recording their testimony. In November 2018, they reverted back to bringing everything through Grand Jury, having resolved most of the problems. Advocates call victims in advance to inform of what to expect about the recording. They have decided not to seek a protective order for most cases. The few they did seek included unindicted co-defendants, or particularly vulnerable victims. As the transcripts of the recordings are quite expensive, there has been little media attention to them. The TF will consider a best practice paper for this subject.

Update on Case Companion – Rhea DuMont

Rhea updated the TF on the Case Companion software developed by Multnomah County through a grant from Code for America and originally completed in 2017. The software provides crime victims information as they navigate the criminal and juvenile justice process. In January 2019, a new project team formed and the system went live in July 2019. The updated system now includes juvenile specific content and is currently in the design phase of juvenile features. It includes English and Spanish translation support and currently provides victims of adult crime an opportunity to request rights through this site. There are several features almost ready to launch, though funding ended in October, so it is unlikely those features will not go live at this time, including: restitution portal, victims' rights request for victims of juvenile delinquency, and automated trial date notifications for victims of adult crimes.



The Task Force is invited to visit the site and provide ongoing feedback to Rhea. Ideas were voiced about ways to pay for the expansion.

Victims' Rights in the Juvenile Justice System Brochure – Helen O'Brien

The Task Force reviewed the current brochure in use for victims of crimes with juvenile defendants. Several updates were suggested.

Updates and Goals: Task Force and Subcommittees

Sarah Purce provided an update of the recent *Immigrant Crime Victims' Rights Subcommittee* meeting.

- The group received an overview from the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization's comprehensive trafficking victim intervention program.
- Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) representative attended the meeting to discuss their role in the recent law change related to U Visa. The subcommittee is working with CJC in the creation of their collection tool.
- A new member from the Victims' Rights Law Center was added.
- They conducted a survey of District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs to better understand the amount of U Visa certifications they process.

Debbi Martin provided an update on the *Juvenile Justice Subcommittee*.

- Overview of 2019 accomplishments: the statewide victim services list was compiled and shared; input provided related to JJIS software updates; adding items to the Juvenile Department of Community Justice Toolkit on the DOJ website; expanded membership to include the Sexual Assault Task Force. They also met with the DOJ Domestic Violence prosecutor regarding strangulation.
- Goals for 2020 include county site visits for those without advocates specializing in juvenile cases, gaining a broader participation from juvenile departments across the state. Adding information to the toolkit regarding registration and determination hearings and exploring improving victim participation in formal accountability agreements.

Saydyie DeRosia provided an update on the *Post-Conviction Advocacy Network (PCAN) Subcommittee*.

- 2019 accomplishments include: the PCAN toolkit was placed on the DOJ website. The new mode of death notifications for incarcerated offenders went live. Community Corrections Advocates Network was formed as a subcommittee of PCAN, as a DOJ committee cannot speak for the Department of Corrections regarding legislation. PCAN also provided victim-centered input for interstate compact rules.
- 2020 PCAN goals include: clarify the bench probation process; develop a template for presenting at different events; identify other counties without advocates specializing in juvenile cases and invite them to PCAN meetings; create a statewide brochure on Community Corrections and add it to the toolkit. They will survey parole officers to determine what will be most helpful and develop a best practice guide for how to work with victims.

ACTIONS:

- Helen will seek additional input for the best practice document and bring it back to the task force for review.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm; *2020 Meetings: January 27, April 27(Portland), July 27, October 26*