



**Attorney General's Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 25, 2021; 1:30 to 2:50 pm**  
**Teams Video Meeting**

**Attendees:** Ashley Anstett, Brad Berry, Alison Bort, Debra Bridges, Rosemary Brewer, Bridget Budbill, Dana Vidoni Carelle, Hon. David Delsman, Saydyie DeRosia, Rhea Dumont, Matt English, Meg Garvin, Jeff Howes, Matthew Lawson, Debbi Martin, Robyn Masella, John Stein

**Absent:** Kimberly Dailey, Steve Doell, Amy Guyer, Chanpone Sinlapasai

**CVSSD Attendees:** Helen O'Brien, Sherree Rodriguez, Shannon Sivell, Stephanie Stocks

**Welcome** – Helen O'Brien welcomed the task force, introducing Bridget Budbill as the new representative for the Oregon Public Defense Office, replacing Marc Brown on the Task Force.

**Minutes** – The group approved the minutes from the October meeting.

**Discussion**

***Hate Crime and Bias Incident Work at DOJ – Fay Stetz-Waters and Johanna Costa***

Fay Stetz-Waters, Director of Civil Rights and Johanna Costa, Bias Response Coordinator, both for Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) shared the DOJ response to [Senate Bill 577](#). The bill impacts Bias Crime and Bias Incident laws in the state. In January 2020 DOJ opened a hotline in support of victims of these crimes and incidents in Oregon. Fay and Johanna outlined the defining qualities of each category. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is collecting hotline data from DOJ, law enforcement data from Oregon State Police (where all Law Enforcement Agencies must report their bias crime data), and District Attorney's (DA) office data from Multnomah, Benton and Lane Counties to inform the public and allow for a broader response to this problem. All DA's will be required to report data about these offenses to CJC starting July 1, 2022. Bias crimes and incidents are based on a hostile expression of animus toward another person relating to the other person's perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin. The incident either doesn't have probable cause or does not escalate to the level of a crime but requires law enforcement to (LE) refer victims to the hotline. DOJ recommends that LE write up bias incidents into a police report. Bias crimes are defined as involving threats, hands-on offenses, assaults, weapons and tampering with or damaging property, with a motivation at least in part targeting a person's race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. LE tools, including bulletins, pocket cards and a toolkit and training are available on [the DOJ website](#). DA's offices can help by ensuring that victims of bias in uncharged/no complained cases are referred to the hotline (1-844-924-BIAS, 711 for Oregon Relay). A full training curriculum including law enforcement, advocate, and community tracks will be available later this year. Please contact [johanna.costa@doj.state.or.us](mailto:johanna.costa@doj.state.or.us) to receive pocket cards by mail or to sign up for notice of training release.

***Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Update – Ashley Anstett***

- The group discussed current legislative efforts including:
  - Providing legal framework for Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to have facilitated dialogue program



- Information being shared with victims when youth are paroled
- Allowing DA's to share the waiver decision document with the victim
- Several Juvenile toolkit documents have been translated into a variety of other languages.
- Efforts to provide HIV testing protocol information for medical providers is underway.

### ***Culturally Specific Program Grants Update – Shannon Sivell***

In 2019 Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) initiated an outreach program to meet with and listen to communities impacted by inequity across the state. CVSSD and the Attorney General's office have continued these efforts moving to virtual community conversations due to COVID restrictions. These efforts have encouraged communities that have not traditionally sought funding opportunities to do so, and CVSSD is happy to announce that six culturally specific and seven culturally responsive programs have recently been approved for new grant funding. Some of the programs serve specific areas while others offer services statewide.

CVSSD is also engaging in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work internally in voluntary staff trainings and in actively promoting recruitments in the broader community.

### ***Roll Call Video – Rosemary Brewer, Helen O'Brien***

A new roll call video informing LE about the importance of handing out victims' rights cards is in the works. The video should be ready for distribution during Crime Victims' Rights Week in April.

### ***New Best Practice Document***

The group reviewed and approved the Juvenile Waiver Hearings Best Practice document. It will be placed on the DOJ website.

### ***Top Issues in Crime Victims' Rights***

Several things related to COVID that are impacting crime victims. Court proceedings have been delayed causing many problematic circumstances. Victims often cannot attend proceedings in person and there could be the threat of dismissal in some cases. There have been some complaints of a slow LE response to protective order violations and some failure to prosecute these to keep jail populations lower to prevent COVID spread. Some victims have been unable to file a restraining order. Calls for assistance have been down since March.

### ***2021 Goals – Helen O'Brien***

The group discussed proposed goals including creating and marketing best practice documents and addressing inequity.

### ***Updates and Goals: Task Force and Subcommittees***

#### ***Immigrant Crime Victims' Rights Subcommittee – Helen O'Brien***

- ~ The new administration is making changes to things relating to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement response.
- ~ The group has set up 2021 goals related to U Visa tracking.
- ~ There is an info graphic that Helen will send out once CJC has updated their website.

#### ***Post-Conviction Advocacy Network (PCAN) Subcommittee - Saydyie DeRosia***



~ PCAN is developing a brochure that will help differentiate the work of Community Corrections and clarify the system for victims.

~ The work on the responsibility letter bank is going slowly. Letters are coming in but necessary training of adults in custody has not been conducted due to COVID. There have not yet been any requests from victims.

~ The group is working on a survey that is under review by Community Corrections. It will go out to parole officers to learn more about barriers to paying restitution.

**Old Business:**

Victims' Rights Requests Forms are now available on the [DOJ website](#) in six languages.

The group discussed the circumstance of when OYA is responsible to contact victims when a youth is in custody following a hearing.

**ACTIONS:**

- Helen will forward the DEI recruitment flyer to the task force.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

**2021 Scheduled Meetings:** April 26, July 26, October 25