



Attorney General's Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2023; 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Teams Video Meeting

Attendees: Beth Brownhill, Saydyie DeRosia, Rhea Dumont, Matt English, Paul Geark, Jeff Howes, Davis Kile, (for Jason Wolf), Emily LaBrecque, (for Rosemary Brewer), Robyn Masella, Kimberly Rose, John Stein, Carrie Walker

Absent: Brad Berry, Rosemary Brewer, Alison Bort, Bridget Budbill, Luis Garcia, Meg Garvin, Wendy Lang, Judge Andrew Lavin, Debbi Martin, Sarah Purce, Jason Wolf

Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) Attendees: Johanna Costa, Helen O'Brien, Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome – Helen O'Brien welcomed the group. Paul Geark, the new representative of Oregon State Police introduced himself.

Minutes – The task force approved the minutes from the January 2023 meeting.

Subcommittee Updates

Immigrant Subcommittee Update – Helen O'Brien

- The group has focused on the U-Cert process in general, meeting with those agencies who sign U Visas for Multnomah County.
- The group is working on a document for those new to signing, with a focus on frequently asked questions.
- An issue of concern is that judges are not always willing to sign a U Visa certification. Kimberly Rose asked the group to send her any questions or concerns her way.

Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Update – Helen O'Brien

- Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) has produced a brochure explaining the process of juvenile involved youth to victims of crime. They are in the process of streamlining their letter, which the subcommittee will review in July.
- Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) has a juvenile court program and are putting together a report on data they have gathered.
- House Bill 745 passed with mandates on a sex trafficking assessment at OYA. They are strategizing around this.

Post-Conviction Advocacy Network (PCAN) Subcommittee – Robyn Masella

- The PCAN group met earlier this month and discussed ideas for a presentation to take to the Community Corrections Directors conference. They have concern that advocacy positions are being eliminated. The group wants Community Corrections offices to understand the value of having an advocate on staff. They are discussing ways to provide consistent training for Community Corrections staff surrounding victim services.
- Further discussion centered on creative ideas for when an adult in custody is released to the county where the crime occurred, but they have no other ties to that county. They hope to find ways to send them to a different county in order to manage victim concerns.



STEP and Restorative Justice Programs – Jeff Howes

STEP Program - The Strategic Treatment and Engagement Program (STEP) combines treatment for drugs and mental health for offenders facing Measure 11 crimes. Instead of giving violent offenders lengthy prison sentences, eligible candidates are going to multiple court dates a week and getting behavioral health treatment.

Pre-Indictment Restorative Justice Program - In August 2022, Multnomah County began piloting a pre-indictment restorative justice program. Young adults (18-30 years) charged with First- and Second-Degree Robbery, and/or Assault in the Second Degree, will be referred to this program. The person who experienced harm and the responsible person(s) must both consent to the referral. All participation in the program is voluntary. Multnomah County District Attorney, in partnership with the Metropolitan Public Defender's (MPD) office and private defense counsel, will refer participants to the program run by The Insight Alliance. In such a pre-indictment model, criminal charges are paused upon enrollment in the program and only reinstated if the restorative justice process is not completed.

The group raised questions about victim rights, restitution and no contact orders.

Victim Notification Update – Saydyie DeRosia, Parrish VanWert

Department of Corrections plans to roll out the VISOR (Victim Information System in Oregon) in late July or early August. They shared with the group details about the website and invited input as the site is being built now.

John Stein's Retirement

John Stein announced his retirement from the group, after many years of service. The task force thanked him for his services and wished him well.

ACTION STEP: Sherree will take steps for DOJ to send John a letter of appreciation for his service.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm