



Attorney General's Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement
Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2023; 1:30 to 2:20 pm
Teams Video Meeting

Attendees: Brad Berry, Alison Bort, Rosemary Brewer, Beth Brownhill, Johanna Costa, Matt English, Susana Escobedo, Paul Geark, Jeff Howes, Hon. Andrew Lavin, Debbi Martin, Robyn Masella, Helen O'Brien, Sarah Purce, Nathan Sheppard, Carrie Walker

Absent: Bridget Budbill, Saydyie DeRosia, Rhea Dumont, Wendy Lang, Kimberly Rose

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome – Helen O'Brien welcomed the group.

Minutes – Minutes were not approved at this meeting. They will be brought to the January meeting for approval.

Trial Court Rules – support of victim rights – Jeff Howes

Jeff shared about the subgroup of this committee's intention to include victims' rights representation in the Uniform Trial Court Rules. There has been a push toward more offender rights representation in the rules. Because of this, our efforts could be proactive about drawing up three to four proposed rules that will advocate for the critical role of victims' rights in the Oregon criminal justice system.

Law Enforcement and Prosecutor Bias Crime Summit – University of Oregon – Johanna Costa

United States Attorney's Office (USAO), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Oregon Dept. of Justice (ODOJ) are hosting the second annual statewide Bias Crime Investigations and Prosecutions: Tools and Strategies for a Successful Case symposium at University of Oregon on November 20, 2023. The training is for law enforcement and prosecutors only.

The ODOJ Bias Response and Sanctuary Promise confidential reporting hotlines have added a chat feature with multiple languages available, during office hours.

The passage of [2023's House Bill 3443](#) brought several amendments affecting hate crime and bias incident victims, adding rights/resources/services for these victims on par with those for other vulnerable victims starting January 1, 2024. This includes mandatory no contact orders for bias crime victims who have a charged criminal justice case, eligibility to break a lease without penalty for bias crime victims, access to Paid Leave Oregon safe leave for bias crime victims, participation in the Address Confidentiality Program for bias crime and incident victims, and the statutory right to consult on plea negotiations for felony bias crime victims. In addition, under this bill, ODOJ is required to train county District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs on bias crimes in 2024, the Bias Response Hotline has additional confidentiality protections, and hotline advocates are eligible for Dept. of Transportation confidentiality protections.



Other discussion:

- The group discussed addressing pre-trial release to create a best practice guide next year. The group will send suggestions to Helen by email.
- Multnomah County is working to improve some systems that allow victim input on release decisions.

Subcommittee Updates

Immigrant Crime Victims' Rights – Sarah Purce

~ The group has new representation from Portland Police Bureau, FBI and USAO. Bureau of Labor and Industries is solidifying the u-certification process, with a process for deferred action for labor trafficking.

~ For 2024, they have discussed creating a list of all certifiers for U Visas statewide and possibly utilizing law students to keep the list active. They will continue outreach and training.

Juvenile Justice – Debbi Martin

~ The new Oregon Youth Authority victim program manager position has been filled by Susana Escobedo. They plan to hire two more positions on her team.

~ Gabby Solis conducted a training on a victim-centered court experience.

~ A new law goes into effect January 1st, which created the expunction of most misdemeanors for juveniles. Victims will be notified at or before adjudication. They are putting together a tool to help with this.

~ In addition to Susana, they have added an advocate from Wasco County as new member to this subcommittee. They have an open invitation to all juvenile advocates in the state to participate.

~ 2024 goals include the current training work, best practices on waiver hearings, and gathering stats of how and which victims' rights efforts are tracked.

~ Senate Bill 745 work is underway that assesses for trafficking for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Post-Conviction – Robyn Masella

~ The group been working on the VISOR transition. They are brainstorming about how something like VISOR could be helpful on a broader scale.

~ Plans for 2024 include working to demonstrate the value of victim service programs and show importance of having advocates in different settings.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm