

# The Connecticut General Assembly

## Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council

Karen Jarmoc  
CO-CHAIRPERSON  
Joseph DiTunno  
CO-CHAIRPERSON



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015  
10:00 A.M. in Room 1B of the LOB

**Attendance:** Co-Chairman Joe DiTunno, Co-Chairwoman Karen Jarmoc, Linda Cimino, Karen Diebolt, Merit Lajoie, Linda Madigan-Runienn for Mary Painter, Dr. David Rentler, Monica Rinaldi, Nydia Rios-Benitez.  
Absent: Chief Marc Montminy and six vacancies.

**Introduction:** Meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m. Chairs welcomed the group and members introduced themselves for the benefit of the public and viewers of CT-N.

#### Meeting:

- Sub-committee members of the CT Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission: Dr. David Rentler, BPP; Nancy Turner, CSSD; Karen Diebolt, Chief State's Attorney; and Merit Lajoie, OVA gave a history and overview of the CT Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards.
- Nancy Turner narrated a PowerPoint presentation, "Batterer Programming & Standards: A Connecticut Perspective".
- Handouts included: Report from CCSU's Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice of the evaluation of the Judicial Branch's three court-mandated family violence programs; CJPAC's, CT Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards; "Guiding Principles", applicable to those who perpetrate any act of family violence; Explanation of FVEP, EXPLORE & EVOLVE; and statutory language related to the advisory council's charge.
- The Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division offers three diversionary and offender programs with varying eligibilities: Family Violence Education Program (FVEP), the EXPLORE Program and the EVOLVE Program.
- The majority of the domestic violence offenders complete one of the Judicial Branch programs however the concern is the 10,000 who are enrolled in alternative programs that have no established guidelines.
- The non-Judicial family violence programs should be focused on evidence-based practices. CT is only one of six states that do not have guiding policies or requirements for family violence programs. This subset quite often presents the highest risk of offending.

#### Next Steps:

- The Advisory Council is requesting comment via [DVACcomment@cga.ct.gov](mailto:DVACcomment@cga.ct.gov) regarding the current CT Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards. The comment period will begin on Oct. 1, 2015 and extend through Oct. 31, 2015. The purpose of the comment period is for the Advisory Council to gather important information and opinions from the public regarding the standards as well as the implementation within the criminal justice system.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Room 1B, LOB.