



Attorney General's Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2024; 1:30 to 2:53 pm
Teams Video Meeting

Attendees: Brad Berry, Alison Bort, Rosemary Brewer, Johanna Costa, Saydyie DeRosia, Meg Garvin, Destini Martinez (for Beth Brownhill), Robyn Masella, Helen O'Brien, Sarah Purce, Greg Rios, Stephanie Stocks, Carrie Walker

Absent: Matt English, Susana Escobedo, Paul Geark, Jeff Howes, Judge Andrew Lavin, John Robb, Kimberly Rose, Nathan Sheperd, Shannon Sivell

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome and Introductions – The group congratulated DA Brad Berry, who is retiring at the end of October.

Minutes – The minutes from the January 22, 2024, meeting were approved by the group.

Oregon Crime Victim Practitioners Guide – Greg Rios
Sr AAG Greg Rios made updates to the Practitioner's Guide.

Best Practice Restitution Guide – Helen O'Brien

The Restitution Best Practice Guide originally written in 2017 has been updated to reflect some changes in the restitution statute and to include additional input from the Crime Victim Compensation Program. This group has had an opportunity to review the changes and provide input.

Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) /Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) update – Alison Bort

~ PSRB and CVSSD have reestablished quarterly meetings and are looking to create a new memorandum of understanding.

~ PSRB was contacted by Tristen Edwards, a defense attorney also part of the Restorative Justice Coalition to discuss the PSRB's Restorative Justice (RJ) program that was established by Senate Bill 65. This program has not been formally established as it is an unfunded mandate and there are concerns with maintaining client confidentiality. There were updates in confidentiality laws done in 2023 that would assist with maintaining RJ records from being used in PSRB proceedings. There has also been a large expansion of RJ programs. Ms. Edwards will present to stakeholders how to identify good candidates for RJ, expected in January.

~ When a guilty except for insanity (GEI) order has a no contact provision, it creates a barrier when victims want to have contact with the person while at Oregon State Hospital (OSH). PSRB has largely resolved this by creating a new process.

~ PSRB is considering working with VISOR to allow victim notification in some circumstances.

~ PSRB is engaging in a rules advisory committee related to extremely dangerous persons with a qualifying mental disorder. DOJ does not represent the state for these types of cases. Instead,



they are overseen by county District Attorneys. There are no automatic advocates to assist under these circumstances. PSRB is seeking to connect with county victim assistance program advocates to communicate the situation. This would allow them to come to the hearing if possible. The Mossman order has impacted this area of concern and significantly increased the number of patients in the state hospital in this category. The group discussed having PSRB and CVSSD present a training at one of the monthly Oregon District Attorney Association meetings, and so create better understanding. A one-page instruction document would also be helpful. The current document, [Civil Commitments EDPMI](#), will be modified with victim advocacy information in the near future.

Bias Crime Training for VAPs – Johanna Costa

Bias crimes or incidents were awarded comparable rights in the Oregon civil and criminal justice systems that Oregon laws already provide for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims, including housing, employment, and prosecutor consultation situations in 2023 under House Bill (HB) 3443. HB 3443 also requires DOJ to create a training for Victim Assistance Programs, to be effective January 2025. It is an online training designed for advocates to better serve bias incident or bias crime victims. There is currently no statutory law enforcement requirement for victims of bias *crimes* to be referred to the hotline (only bias *incident* victims). This puts them in positions of long delays without knowing their rights, so the training intends to help fill that gap.

VISOR Update – Saydyie DeRosia

Department of Corrections (DOC) is at the one-year anniversary of launching the VISOR victim notification system. Many improvements have been made since the launch. The board of parole is coming into the program as well. They are moving toward discussions with PSRB. They are updating the website with the changes as quickly as possible. About half the county jails use VISOR and there are areas of disconnect due to the nature of county infrastructure. Oregon Youth Authority participants must be searched with their full name.

NCVLI website for Bias Victims

National Crime Victim Law Institute has sponsored [a website for bias victims](#). This allows interested parties to type in a question and get a response from an attorney for bias incidents and hate crimes.

Subcommittee Updates

Post Conviction – Saydyie DeRosia

~ They have welcomed new members at the last three meetings and have completed three of their 2024 goals. They are planning for a presentation to the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). The group has a longer meeting in January, which will be in person.

~ Adults in custody (AIC) incarcerated for 15 years or longer, have supervised outings prior to their release to prepare them for reentry. The group is considering if this should be included in a VISOR notification. They are weighing victim rights and the safety of the AIC and DOC staff.



~ AICs often request legal name changes. The group discussed the victim's rights to know about this. The original name tracks along with the offender's record. VISOR searches can be performed for any alias and gather all the information as usual.

Immigrant Crime Victims' Rights – Sarah Purce

~ The group has decided on 2025 goals.
~ Rich Austria is a new U-Visa certifier for Oregon DOJ.
~ Continued presence was discussed, why it was created and how it can be used. They are planning to improve an understanding about this among agents.

Juvenile Justice – Helen O'Brien

~ Group representatives presented at the annual Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association Conference. They conducted two breakout sessions that were well attended. There was a panel presentation that was well received.

Actions:

- Members will send Greg Rios a list of their ideas for legislature and Greg will create a proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm