

Violent Crime Victims Advisory Committee (VCAC)

Public Meeting Minutes

Date: December 6, 2024

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Chair: Dr. Kathryn Bocanegra

Attendance: Vicki Smith, Chief Mitchell Davis, Eddie Lopez, Dr. Jalil Abdul-Adil, Celia Colon, Dr. Kim Miller, Gloria Hicks, State's Attorney Reinhardt, Kathy Daniher, Melissa Ellison, Erica Katava,

Absent: Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, Dr. Tony Salam, Representative Noreen Hammond, Dr. Derek Gordon-Booth.

1. Welcome and Housekeeping

- - Dr. Kathryn Bocanegra opened the meeting.
- - Theresa Geary provided technical instructions and noted the meeting was recorded in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

2. Roll Call and Attendance

- - Roll call was conducted and a quorum was met.
- - Committee members and public attendees were welcomed.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- - Minutes from the September 6, 2024 meeting were approved without revisions.

4. Crime Victim Compensation Program Updates

- - Christelle Perez presented 2025 updates expanding eligibility, covered expenses, and trauma-informed access.
- - Key additions include expanded applicant categories, legal fee coverage, housing and relocation supports, and streamlined documentation pathways.

5. Research Overview on Financial Recovery for Survivors

- - Dr. Bocanegra summarized national and global research supporting direct cash assistance as a tool for survivor safety, mental health, and long-term stability.

6. Guest Presentation: Tinisch Hollins (Californians for Safety and Justice)

- - Shared California's survivor-led policy model and implementation of flexible, low-barrier cash aid.

- - Highlighted the importance of dignity, equity, and removing retraumatizing eligibility requirements.

7. Guest Presentation: Colleen Norton (The Network)

- - Outlined The Network's Survivor Fund and expansion to statewide housing assistance in 2025.
- - Emphasized low-barrier access, advocacy-led applications, and varying eligibility based on funder definitions.

8. Public Comment and Community Engagement

- - Survivor Santrisa Harrison shared her past challenges with compensation and expressed hope in recent reforms.
- - Attendees emphasized the need for outreach, community education, and trauma-informed support.

9. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- - Participants suggested future meeting topics (e.g., DUI victims, family engagement, public awareness).
- - The next meeting will be held in March 2025.