

VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES – PENDING APPROVAL	
Committee	Utah Victim Services Commission
Date	Wednesday, August 26th, 2026
Time	12 PM - 2 PM
Location	Hybrid Zoom Virtual meeting – Seagull Room, East Senate Building
Members Present	<u>Virtual Attendance:</u> Alissa Black, Rep. Ken Ivory, Jennifer Campbell, Dominique Kiahtipes <u>In-Person Attendance:</u> Liliana Olvera-Arbon, Eddy Thompson (for Igor Limensky), Tracey Tabet, Chyleen Richey, Doug Fawson (for Jared Garcia), Dan Strong, Tyler Kotter, Amanda Miller
Staff & Visitors	<u>In-Person Staff:</u> Danica Bodley, Marlesse Jones, Katie Fox, Tom Ross, Rachelle Hill <u>Virtual Staff:</u> <u>In-Person Visitors:</u> Christian Sarver, Kristy Pike, Erin Jemison, Sam Candland, Max Pierce, Kim Wolf, Sandi Johnson, Felix Espinoza, Justin Elswood, Kyle Arcurio <u>Virtual Visitors:</u> Jennifer Yim, Catherine Ruetschlin, Mikaylee Sanchez-Paz
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions/Establish Quorum – <i>Liliana Olvera-Arbon, Co-Chair</i>
Notes	Liliana Olvera-Arbon welcomes the commission to the August 2026 VSC meeting. Motion: Chyleen Richey motioned for the commission to approve the meeting minutes from June 24th, 2026. Tracey Tabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Agenda Item	Victim Rights – <i>Katie Fox, Victim Rights Coordinator</i>
Notes	The Commission approved significant leadership and membership changes within the district committees to ensure operational longevity and fresh perspectives. Katie Fox informs the commission of the leadership transition in the Second District: • Outgoing Chair: Reed Richards was recognized for his long-term service as a "pioneer in victim's rights." • Incoming Chair: Tamara Basquez, a Special Victims Prosecutor with the Davis County Attorney's Office, was appointed as the new chair. The Commission highlighted a policy of rotating chairs and members to prevent burnout, noting that while many members are willing to stay on long-term, periodic rotation allows for eventual "looping back" of experienced personnel. Motion: Doug Fawson motioned for the commission to approve Tamara Basquez as the second district victim rights committee chair. Tracey Tabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. <u>New Committee Appointments</u> The following individuals were approved for the Second District: • Christina Perry Rock: Victim Advocate Representative (Davis County Attorney's Office). • Nic\ Mills: City Attorney (Kaysville City). • Joshua Draper: Department of Corrections. • Garrett Smith: Morgan County Attorney. and Third District: • Rhiannon Mann: West Valley City Attorney's Office (Third District). Motion: Tyler Kotter motioned for the commission to approve the committee appointments as presented. Eddy Thompson (for Igor Limansky) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item	VSC Sub-Committee Reports – <i>Sub-Committee Chairs, VSC</i>
Notes	<u>Child Abuse Subcommittee</u> - Faith Leaders Conference: Planned for January 2027, with Victor Vee anticipated as the keynote speaker. - Under-12 Services: Members noted a critical lack of services for children under the age of 12 with sexual behaviors. This is identified as "low-hanging fruit" for prevention. - Undocumented Victims: The sub-committee is focusing on the challenges faced by undocumented individuals, specifically regarding U Visas—a legal status for victims who assist law enforcement. Training for advocates on these visas is being developed. <u>Domestic Violence (DV) Subcommittee</u> - DV Offender Registry: Ongoing discussion regarding a potential bill. Current efforts focus on making the existing court "Exchange" system easier for the public to navigate for free, rather than creating a separate registry. - UPC Resource Prosecutor: There is a significant push for funding a dedicated Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor within the Utah Prosecution Council (UPC) to assist newer prosecutors with complex trials and trauma-informed dynamics. - Response Training: Plans are underway to develop response training for MMIR cases through the Office of American Indian/Alaska Native Family and Health and Human Services. - Family Support: The sub-committee is exploring a model similar to New Mexico's, which uses emergency assistance funds to help families of missing persons with search parties and flyers (excluding rewards). <u>Multicultural Subcommittee</u> - Their working group was exploring doing training on U-Visas to answer a need for better understanding. They were open to involvement by other professions or groups to assist. Tracey Tabet with CJC expressed interest, as did Liliana Olvera-Arbon with UCASA.
Agenda Item	Policy – <i>Marlesse Jones, VSC Director & Sub-Committee Chairs, VSC</i>
Notes	Erin Jemison and Marlesse Jones provided an update on a potential domestic violence offender registry bill. She met virtually with a sponsor to review "Xchange"—the court information system. She noted that while Xchange holds a wealth of information, it is overwhelming for average citizens to navigate. She recommended that the sponsor connect with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and their IT team to make this existing data more accessible and user-friendly rather than reinventing the wheel.
Agenda Item	Mass Casualty – <i>Chief Sol Oberg, VSC Chair</i>
Notes	The agenda item for Mass Casualty was originally placed on the agenda following a good discussion in a past meeting that involved concerns regarding timing, funding, and other moving pieces. Because the commission's chair, Chief Oberg, was not present at this meeting, a proposal was presented on his behalf to table the mass casualty discussion for the time being. The basis for tabling the mass casualty topic was to manage the commission's priority of time, capacity, and fiscal resources. A separate, focus study was scheduled to be made public that upcoming Friday, which would require a significant amount of implementation and integration work. Motion: Tyler Kotter motioned for the commission to table the agenda item for Mass Casualty with the intention of revisiting it in the future. Tracey Tabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A note was explicitly made to ensure that the mass casualty topic is folded into the upcoming discussions surrounding the implementation of the focus study's recommendations.

Agenda Item	VSC Study Q&A – <i>Christian Sarver, Ph.D., Associate Director, Criminal Justice Center, UofU</i>
Notes	Christian Sarver and Catherine Ruetschlin presented an overview of the final victim services study and mapping project developed with the digit lab on campus, which maps services by county, service types, and drive times (categorized into 15, 30, 60, and over 60 minutes) while incorporating community resources like food banks identified during listening sessions. Christian emphasized that the maps are intended to help the commission evaluate resource allocation and service accessibility across the state. Rep. Ken Ivory and Tom Ross discussed plans to establish a formal legislative working group involving leadership, appropriations chairs, and commission members to review the study report and translate its findings into practical legislative recommendations. Tom Ross and Ken Ivory cautioned that the commission should allow legislative leadership and interim committees to receive and digest the study before prematurely tying it to specific budget demands or legislative outcomes. Marlesse Jones and Christian outlined the distribution plan for the victim services study, noting that copies were sent to the governor, lieutenant governor, legislative staff, and the attorney general's office, with final public posting scheduled for Friday. Erin Jemison, UDVC, and Rep. Ken Ivory praised the independent, hands-off nature of the study, noting its importance in establishing a credible foundation for future legislative advocacy and funding sustainability. Tom Ross cautioned against immediately using the study to justify current budget requests, arguing it could appear self-serving and undermine the study's credibility. Ken Ivory agreed that they should use the report strategically for a major proposal in 2028 while identifying necessary stop-gaps for the upcoming session. Jennifer Campbell inquired whether subcommittee structural processes and recommendations from the report should be put on hold. Ken Ivory suggested triaging issues to determine what can practically be addressed as stop-gaps in 2027 versus broader overhauls. Tom Ross and Rep. Ken Ivory discussed distinguishing between operational fixes, which can proceed, and policy, funding, or structural policy shifts, which should be driven by the study. Rep. Ken Ivory clarified that forming a separate legislative group was intended to build ownership among colleagues rather than exclude stakeholders.
Agenda Item	Annual Meeting topics/suggestions – <i>VSC Members</i>
Notes	Marlesse Jones reviewed potential topics submitted via a Google document for the September annual meeting, including HUD programs, legislative staff roles, appeals, conflict of interest in case transfers, victim notification RFPs for Vine and competitors, public safety portals, emerging technologies, coalitions, multidisciplinary teams, crime prevention, juvenile versus adult courts, HB459 consent bills, strangulation exams, and legal services. Marlesse Jones also discussed state comparisons on creative funding sources, noting examples such as Washington's firearm tax, license plate fees, or marriage license percentages. Jennifer Campbell and Marlesse Jones addressed time allocations and the need to prioritize the study report while balancing current operational updates. A concern was raised about courts being overwhelmed by AI-generated legal documents filed by pro se litigants, noting potential negative impacts on victims' cases and suggesting input be gathered from the courts. Erin Jemison requested updates on funding amounts and processes being explored by various groups ahead of the September meeting. A discussion occurred regarding the challenges in collecting restitution from incarcerated individuals who possess hidden assets or retirement accounts, citing an example of a deceased inmate with substantial funds. Doug Fawson noted that current processes may lack visibility into inmate assets. Additionally, Doug and another participant noted the value of educating advocates and prosecutors on Board of Pardons decision-making processes and sentencing guidelines. Marlesse instructed members to email agenda preferences for the Annual meeting topics by the end of the week.

Agenda Item	Public Comment
Notes	Felix Espinosa, chair and founder of Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws (UTRSOL), stated during public comment that registry creation has become a default legislative reflex for visible harms without consistent evidence-based evaluation. Kyle Arcurio (UTRSOL) commented on the resource map idea, noting it serves as a decision-making tool for resource allocation rather than direct access, and discussed the limitations of driving-time models versus public transportation. Justin Elswood, representing UTRSOL, provided an introduction and expressed interest in future conversations.
Agenda Item	Adjourn
Notes	Motion: Doug Fawson motions for the commission to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The commission adjourns. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th, 2026 from 9 AM - 3 PM. <u>Anchor Location:</u> Capitol Board Room Zoom link: meet.google.com/oqt-dzck-cvc
DISCLAIMER	Please note that these meeting minutes have been primarily generated or assisted by an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. These notes have been edited by staff to ensure accuracy and completeness.