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OVS Newsletter

September 11, 2019

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=pccd&service=6&rnd=0.6668060301536507&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpccd.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fprogram%2FprogramDetail.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26internalProgramTicket%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26siteurl%3Dpccd%26internalProgramTicketUnList%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26cProgViewID%3D1727107%26PRID%3D9c0a5f356b9ee12dc7de27fe147bb352)Compensation Related: Basic Compensation and much more!

Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description). To receive training credits: 1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session. As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

* + [Training/Networking Opportunities](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/OVS-Training-Networking-Opportunities.aspx)
  + [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx)

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# Important Information Regarding PA SAVIN

In the months to come, there will be a transition from Appriss VINELink to CCAP PA SAVIN as the provider for the victim notification system.  The transition is scheduled to occur by the end of the year.  Training and information will be provided by CCAP prior to this date.  The training for Victim Witness staff will be September 10-12, 2019.  It will be available in-person at CCAP or via webinar.  Please see the below link to sign up for training.  If you plan to attend in person, please notify Jennifer Crotsley directly after registering.  Additionally, the webinar will be recorded and available for viewing after that week.  Updated marketing materials will be provided to each Victim Witness office the week before the system goes live.  If you have questions, please contact any of the individuals listed below.  Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Link for training:

PA SAVIN Training - Victim Witness occurs several times. Please register for the date and time that works best for you:   
[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/3376296044581607427](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fattendee.gotowebinar.com%2Frt%2F3376296044581607427&data=02%7C01%7Cjblystone%40pa.gov%7C66f65deea17245d71c0d08d711e696c7%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C636997554385677552&sdata=aHqoGj4OjmakB6HZ%2FJ6ewcZh5kwckMtZAZX3v61sUdA%3D&reserved=0)  
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Contact information:

Jennifer Crotsley, PA SAVIN Support Manager (CCAP)

[jcrotsley@pacounties.org](mailto:jcrotsley@pacounties.org)

717-736-4799

Lindsay Vaughan, Executive Director (PDAI)

[lvaughan@pdaa.org](mailto:lvaughan@pdaa.org)

717-238-5416

Jennifer Feicht, PA SAVIN Consultant (PDAI)

[jennifer@jlfconsulting.net](mailto:jennifer@jlfconsulting.net)

724-679-7280

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# The Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act (Act 29)

The Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act (Act 29) strengthened the rights and resources available to victims of sexual offenses who choose to have sexual assault evidence kits collected. The law requires victims to be notified related to the status of their sexual assault evidence kit if the victim requests such notification.

For more information, please click on  [Attorney General’s Standard Protocol for Victim Notification](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/victim-notification/) under [Act 29](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2019&sessInd=0&act=29) and note the additional links for helpful resources listed on the site:

* U.S. Department of Justice: National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits [Report](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf)
* Cambria County Sexual Assault [Protocol](https://www.evawintl.org/Library/DocumentLibraryHandler.ashx?id=75)
* Westmoreland County [Guidelines](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Westmoreland-County-Victim-Notification-Protocol.pdf) for Law Enforcement Initial Victim Notification of “Backlogged” Forensic Rape Exams – Adult Victims
* PCAR Forensic Rape Exam Testing: Victim Notification [fact sheet](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/PCAR_Victim-Notification-Factsheet.pdf)
* Child Advocacy Center [fact sheet](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NCA-Media-Guide.pdf)

**STOP Projects should update their Sexual Assault Protocol with the statutory guidelines under Act 29 including victim notification guidelines specific to the jurisdiction.**

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# VCAP Claim Form Changes

The Victim Compensation Program is beginning the process of reviewing and making changes to the paper claim form. If there are any changes you would like to see made to the paper claim forms, please email your suggestions to Stacie Brendlinger at [sbrendling@pa.gov](mailto:sbrendling@pa.gov) by October 4, 2019.

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# Netflix Limited Series – Unbelievable

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) highlights the case of 18-year old Marie Adler, who was prosecuted for filing a false report of sexual assault, despite compelling physical evidence that she had been bound, gagged, and raped by a stranger who broke into her home. Marie was prosecuted for false reporting, fined $500, sent to counseling for lying, and placed on supervised probation. Her name was only cleared after her rapist was arrested in another state for a series of sexual assaults.

On September 13, Netflix will release a limited television series based on Marie’s story, allowing viewers to follow this tale of unspeakable trauma, unwavering tenacity, and astounding resilience. Click [here](https://www.evawintl.org/Default.aspx) to read more.

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# CASA Therapy Dogs Expected to Help Children During Court Proceedings

When a child enters a courtroom to participate in proceedings, it can be a frightening and unnerving experience. In a couple of months, the new Dog Program will be in effect at the McKean County Courthouse.

Click [here](http://www.bradfordera.com/bradford/casa-therapy-dogs-expected-to-help-children-during-court-proceedings/article_e218bcf5-8ab9-58c5-8969-38f0c42d4d4c.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-sharehttp://www.bradfordera.com/bradford/casa-therapy-dogs-expected-to-help-children-during-court-proceedings/article_e218bcf5-8ab9-58c5-8969-38f0c42d4d4c.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share) to read more.

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# How One Mother’s Battle is Changing Police Training on Disabilities

Working with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, like Down syndrome or autism, can be complex and challenging even for those with years of training. But one group – law enforcement – often encounters people with these conditions in high-stress situations, with little or no training at all.

Click [here](https://www.endabusepwd.org/news-article/uncategorized/how-one-mothers-battle-is-changing-police-training-on-disabilities/) to read more.

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# Know How to Recognize Sexual Harassment in Your School

A new school year is a chance to catch up with friends, join new clubs, and push yourself to do your best. But for many students returning to middle and high school classrooms this year, sexual harassment is something else they will have to face.

Click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/know-how-recognize-sexual-harassment-your-school) to read more.

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# Why We Shouldn’t Tell People to Just Leave Abusive Relationships

If someone is in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, it's easy for outsiders to tell them to just leave. Breaking up with an abusive partner seems like an easy fix, but in reality, it's [not that simple](http://www.teenvogue.com/story/hashtag-maybe-he-doesnt-hit-you-relationship-violence). In fact, leaving an abusive relationship or breaking up with an abusive partner can be the [most dangerous](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/domestic-violence-victims-1.3885381) period in the entire relationship. In a thread on Twitter, model Diana Veras explained what can keep people in abusive relationships, and why we need to stop telling them to just leave.

Click [here](https://www.teenvogue.com/story/why-we-shouldnt-tell-people-to-just-leave-abusive-relationships) to read more.

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# *Check Your Workplace* Shares Strategies and Tips to End Workplace Sexual Assault and Harassment

While improved training, changing policies & firing harassers are great first steps to stop workplace sexual harassment, it’s time to take the next step.

Click [here](https://checkyourworkplace.com/) to read more.

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

September 24, 2019

Myths of Compensation 9:30a.m. – 10:30a.m.

“Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

October 1, 2019

Basic Compensation 9:30a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

October 9, 2019

Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic 10:00a.m – 11:00 a.m.

October 16, 2019

Loss of Support Clinic 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

October 24, 2019

Restitution Basics 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/pccd/onstage/g.php?PRID=9c0a5f356b9ee12dc7de27fe147bb352) to register.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except for Basic Compensation, which counts towards 2 training hours, and DAVE training, which counts towards 2.15 training hours.

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# DELTA FOCUS Stories: Lessons Learned from Three Community-Based Initiatives Webinar

The PreventIPV project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence is pleased to showcase the innovative work of 3 community-based prevention initiatives aimed at changing the environments and conditions in which people live, work and play through CDC’s DELTA FOCUS program.

Click [here](https://events-na1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2356533113/en/events/event/shared/2358249989/event_landing.html?sco-id=3205870663) to register.

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# National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Webinar – DVAM is 365 Days Long: How to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence During and Beyond October

Join the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) and the National Resource Center for Domestic Violence (NRCDV) for a FREE webinar. You’ll learn more about these organizations’ Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaigns, how to utilize available tools and resources to make these campaigns relevant to your audience and how to integrate DVAM into your policy and educational work to make DVAM’s impact last beyond October.

For additional information and to register, please click [here](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1089416312347328011).

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# OVC TTAC Webinar – What Really is the Best Mental Health Approach to Victims of Mass Violence?

The Office for Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) is offering an upcoming webinar.

**What Really is the Best Mental Health Approach to Victims of Mass Violence?** The negative psychological effects of surviving a mass violence incident are second only to injury and death, and these types of incidents usually have a slower recovery trajectory. This webinar will provide psychoeducational information to assist victims and survivors in understanding their reactions and how best to cope with them.

Click [here](https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspWebinars.cfm) to register.

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# STOP Domestic Violence Trainings Across PA

The Office of Victim Advocate has partnered with the Finding Jenn’s Voice film and curriculum to deliver a FREE statewide training like none other! OVA will be traveling across the state (10 locations in 2 years) to bring to you a training focused on:

Recognizing the various aspects of domestic violence.

The protocols we use to combat this epidemic.

The tools you need for effective supervision of an offender.

Access to services for victims.

Dates, locations and additional info [will continue to be announced here](https://www.ova.pa.gov/Programs/Opportunities/Training/Pages/default.aspx). **The next training will be in Altoona on September 24, 2019**. This curriculum is certified by MPOETC to provide 3 CEUs for municipal police officers as well as 6 hours of PCCD Annual Training. If you work in state/county probation, law enforcement, victim services, the district attorney or district justice office – this training is for you! [Register here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stop-domestic-violence-mercer-tickets-65709979317?aff=evitehttps://www.eventbrite.com/e/stop-domestic-violence-mercer-tickets-65709979317?aff=evite). Questions may be directed to Renee Bressler at [rebressler@pa.gov](mailto:rebressler@pa.gov).

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# PDAI Victim Services Trainings

Bridges Out of Poverty

Date: September 23, 2019

Time: 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Location: Linglestown Road, Harrisburg Giant Community Room

Harrisburg Foundational Academy

Date: October 9-11, 2019

Time: 9:00AM – 5:00PM

Location: The Best Western Premier/Central Hotel

Spaces are now full for this event.

Human Trafficking

Date: November 6, 2019

Time: 1:00PM – 5:00PM

Location: King of Prussia

Registration opens at [www.pdaa.org](http://www.pdaa.org) under the PDAI’s Training Calendar. Contact the Training Consultant, Amy Smulktis at [AJS@restitutionconsulting.com](mailto:AJS@restitutionconsulting.com), for more details or if interested in a scholarship. Trainings qualify for PCCD-approved training hours.

To receive the quarterly *Restitution & Victim/Witness Training Newsletter* which includes important updates regarding Foundational Academy, Topical Trainings, and restitution, please email Amy Smulktis.

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# 2019 Pathways for Victim Services

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency’s Office of Victims’ Services is very excited about the upcoming Pathways Conference, and looks forward to seeing you there. The conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge on December 2nd – December 4th, 2019. Registration will be open in early September.

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# SafeNet Erie Twentieth Anniversary Conference

Mark your calendars for SafeNet’s 20th annual conference, *Intimate Partner Violence: The Silent Secret*. The goal of this conference is to raise awareness of the impact that intimate partner violence (IPV) has on our community, while promoting action to improve responses to this social issue. In 2019, the conference will also focus on the issue of human trafficking and explain its correlation with IPV.

Click [here](https://www.safeneterie.org/events/) to register.

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# Leave No Victim Behind 2019 Conference

The University of Oregon Police Department and the California Victim Compensation Board are pleased to announce the **Leave No Victim Behind IV**National Training Conference for 2019. The conference will take place October 21–23, 2019, at the Conference Center of Las Vegas. The Leave No Victim Behind conference series will continue its focus on best practices for responding to mass violence and the unique partnerships between law enforcement and victim services to assist victims of crime.  This year’s conference theme is **Long-Term Recovery of Communities Following Mass Violence Incidents**. The conference dates follow the second anniversary of the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017. Participants will hear from responders and victims of the Harvest Festival shooting regarding their recovery process over the last two years.

For conference registration, please click [here](https://center.uoregon.edu/uosafety/2019/registration/).

To check the conference website for updates, click [here](https://center.uoregon.edu/uosafety/2019/).

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# If your program is offering new or extended services, or implementing new initiatives that you would like to highlight, please submit your news article to Jennifer Moore at [jemoore@pa.gov](mailto:jemoore@pa.gov).

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **September 25, 2019**. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Jennifer Moore at [jemoore@pa.gov](mailto:jemoore@pa.gov) by Wednesday, **September 18, 2019**.  
You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services. This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email. If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Jennifer Moore at (717) 265-8705 or via email at [jemoore@pa.gov](mailto:jemoore@pa.gov).

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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx) | 3101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110 | (717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.