**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

March 18, 2020

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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).

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

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# PCCD Subrecipients Updates Related To COVID 19

As a result of recent health and safety concerns related to the spread of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we wanted to share again the following link to the Pennsylvania Department of Health: [Pennsylvania Coronavirus Updates](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.health.pa.gov%2Ftopics%2Fdisease%2FPages%2FCoronavirus.aspx&data=02%7C01%7Ckabuckley%40pa.gov%7C694cf676626848de5f9f08d7c9d1fad2%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637199776716762436&sdata=28nnh6wjNgRBSWlDhsApjUiQD%2FziHh3CxzmHzXDztyc%3D&reserved=0).  Information can also be found on their [Facebook](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu7061146.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D4tNED-2FM8iDZJQyQ53jATUb8Hzhz9hTfMErRs-2Fni8h9iPhC1aY9BVhaOWCOMHTTu2h5NLOsx8HG3SenlmX9HAow-3D-3DRgXI_hdLF3rLJhzTRPT2w-2FGfeA8E2Ufo9uchaw2FUkqw0VAAtxwI3imaVW2pcEabk6UbHNkwk42E4T0jUmxuJYF34ZXhzaO495n5u6ycew-2FsobnMyRmOc49luwrw8qv73LNa8UwrpHlnyiNGdN1TC1n0iGre0SUmIStbQzy-2BjMk-2Fb0ZgshbBdSkMFf0BJujaYhj9f33DYFW2VP5R0xFlSS-2FpGZxl7L0Mm1eiZZMIqgyi-2F24gZGPS5vZbnMHa9AotF6gWhR25UXFvjVeHX8BEWwnFfviALVals8O7yUXW8d3a4X0wicdLgen-2F-2Bk8G72WuKIj7KuKquTvxDhyH3SVKE9UZVGA-3D-3D&data=02%7C01%7Ckabuckley%40pa.gov%7C694cf676626848de5f9f08d7c9d1fad2%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637199776716762436&sdata=0o0rPae93gS3bCFTA2Pzk0QZs1lc66qJchjTh2uhw3g%3D&reserved=0) page and  [Twitter](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu7061146.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D4tNED-2FM8iDZJQyQ53jATUaQdhrH0jN5hsgJK-2BcC12hTUfg9GzNQM72tOTY4m8nddlqdZMm-2FxijNPa9rMG37uwa-2Br2LvStqlztiDDdeF-2FtADJwiG0kyJ5rHQuTvAhpQ9qToVY_hdLF3rLJhzTRPT2w-2FGfeA8E2Ufo9uchaw2FUkqw0VAAtxwI3imaVW2pcEabk6UbHNkwk42E4T0jUmxuJYF34ZXhzaO495n5u6ycew-2FsobnMyRmOc49luwrw8qv73LNa8UwrpHlnyiNGdN1TC1n0iGre0SUmIStbQzy-2BjMk-2Fb0ZgshbBdSkMFf0BJujaYhj9fvart2p1FcC23X-2Bocon9y3toG2i5NciviAn9yZARheij6PfJEAw45iG1ww8d07pHU-2Fz41-2FzceO8DXngcwd4sPGvNrlVyAJSI-2FCX2r-2BinvrlpibouKcV-2FJq3padVjgyCDn898n1kpdUgMg61PJ-2BXTkRw-3D-3D&data=02%7C01%7Ckabuckley%40pa.gov%7C694cf676626848de5f9f08d7c9d1fad2%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637199776716772434&sdata=msyZfIw3iMWV%2F0xWo%2F2Vfh4v6rlPep%2BtV3cMG3vgb4A%3D&reserved=0) account.

**Following up on our original email below, we wanted to provide guidance regarding costs that may be incurred for canceled conferences, meetings, trainings and other gatherings and again stress the importance of having a written leave policy in place.**

**Conferences, events, and other gatherings:**  For PCCD-sponsored conferences, meetings, trainings, and other gatherings that are scheduled in the near term, PCCD grant recipients should work to set up such events as virtual events or postpone events until a later date.  If converting to a virtual event or postponement is not possible, grantees should cancel near-term events. Please contact your PCCD program manager listed in the Main Summary section of your Egrants application should you be required to cancel an event or incur costs for postponement or cancellation of events.

**Airline ticket cancellations:**  Grantees should try to have the airline reimburse the canceled ticket(s) in cash. However, if the airline will only refund the cancellation as a credit:

* The grantee should apply the credit to a future trip for the same PCCD grant or project.
* If you have other PCCD funded project which you believe you may be able to apply the credit to, please contact your PCCD program manager listed in the Main Summary section of your Egrants application.
* If you are unable to use the credit as described above, then you should process the trip as a cancellation, which PCCD approves to be charged to the grant due to this mitigating circumstance.

**Interruptions in performance of work under the grant:**  All PCCD grantees should have a written leave policy in place.  For federal or state funded projects, we will be applying the federal guidelines for cost principles related to leave which are copied below and can be found at 2 CFR 200.431(b).  We encourage you to review the entire section (2 CFR 200.431) related to fringe benefits.

**2 CFR 200.431(b):**

(b) Leave. The cost of fringe benefits in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as for annual leave, family-related leave, sick leave, holidays, court leave, military leave, administrative leave, and other similar benefits, are allowable if all of the following criteria are met:

(1) They are provided under established written leave policies;

(2) The costs are equitably allocated to all related activities, including Federal awards; and,

(3) The accounting basis (cash or accrual) selected for costing each type of leave is consistently followed by the non-Federal entity or specified grouping of employees.

(i) When a non-Federal entity uses the cash basis of accounting, the cost of leave is recognized in the period that the leave is taken and paid for. Payments for unused leave when an employee retires or terminates employment are allowable in the year of payment.

(ii) The accrual basis may be only used for those types of leave for which a liability as defined by GAAP exists when the leave is earned. When a non-Federal entity uses the accrual basis of accounting, allowable leave costs are the lesser of the amount accrued or funded.

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# VOCA Updates – Federal Appropriation And VOCA 2020-2023 Funding Announcement

FEDERAL APPROPRIATION

In December 2019, a letter was sent to OVS Grant Recipients relative to the status of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding at the federal level.

To recap that letter, the 2015 Federal “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriation Act” raised the VOCA cap (the amount which could be spent in a year from the VOCA fund) from $749 million to $2.361 billion, paving the way for historic allocations of VOCA Funding to the states. Pennsylvania saw our VOCA allocation quadruple, prompting PCCD’s Statewide Victims’ Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) to conduct intensive strategic planning that resulted in a three-year VOCA Funding Strategy. The strategy included investments in infrastructure of local programs, such as upgrades in technology, competitive staff salaries and benefits, and restoration of services previously eliminated due to past funding cuts. Pennsylvania also released three competitive funding solicitations, designed to engage new organizations, encourage innovative programs, reach underserved victim populations, and allow local agencies to expand services.

This significant increase was a result of growing annual deposits into the VOCA Fund. From 2009 to 2017, the average annual deposit into the VOCA fund was over $2.7 billion. As you may know, the deposits into the VOCA fund come exclusively from fines levied against federal criminal offenders. Unfortunately, the VOCA fund has seen a drastic decrease in deposits in 2018 and 2019. In both years, deposits were approximately $450 million. The VOCA fund balance in 2018 was $8.94 Billion. The 2019 VOCA Cap of $3.35 billion could potentially decrease the VOCA fund balance to approximately $5.59 billion. This means that if deposits continue to be as low as they have been in the past two years, the VOCA fund cannot sustain the current level of expenditure.

Due to the decreased deposits into the VOCA Fund, at the November 2019 VSAC meeting significant discussion took place. As a result of these discussions, VSAC approved the following:

* A funding announcement will be released in March 2020 to currently funded programs to maintain the expanded programs and service provision to victims. This includes:
	+ Programs awarded as part of the VOCA non-competitive solicitations;
	+ Programs awarded as part of the VOCA 2016-2019 Competitive Solicitation; and
	+ Programs awarded as part of the VOCA 2018-2020 Competitive Solicitation.
* VSAC decided to forgo a new VOCA competitive funding announcement in 2020. The possibility of a new competitive solicitation in the future will be discussed as more information is known about the solvency of the VOCA fund.

By making these decisions, VSAC sought to maintain the victim services infrastructure and impressive gains with new programs and expanded services. Once more information is obtained about the VOCA Fund and the VOCA allocations to the states, VSAC and the Office of Victim Services will evaluate the information and strategically plan to sustain and/or enhance victim services through future funding announcements.

VOCA 2020-2023 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

In March 2020, another communication was sent to OVS Grant Recipients relative to the VOCA 2020-2023 Non-Competitive Funding Announcement that will be released in March 2020. This non-competitive solicitation will include programs awarded as part of the funding announcements listed in the December 2019 memo. As a reminder, both the VOCA 2019-2021 Non-Competitive Solicitation and the Competitive Solicitation released in 2018, with an end date of September 2021, provided funding for projects that were not designed to be sustained through VOCA funding past the end of the project period. These projects were to be considered non-sustainable projects.

The VOCA funding announcement will contain the maximum amounts for which individual programs may apply. To help explain how program allocations are being determined, below is an example of the calculations. These calculations are based on the annualized amounts of the VOCA 2016-2019 Non-Competitive 15-Month Extension; VOCA 2016-2019 Competitive #1 12-Month Extension and the VOCA 2018-2020 Competitive #2 30-month grants.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant** | **Total Award Amount** |  | **# of Months in the Grant** |  | **Total Award Amount per Month** |  | **# of Months in a Year** |  | **Total Annual Allocation** |  | **# of Years** | **Total 2020-2023 Allocation** |
| VOCA 2016-2019 Non-Competitive 15-Month Extension | $250,000 | / | 15 | = | $16,666.67 | \* | 12 | = | $200,000 | \* | 3 | $600,000 |
| VOCA 2016-2019 Competitive #1 12-Month Extension | $100,000 | / | 12 | = | $8,333.33 | \* | 12 | = | $100,000 | \* | 3 | $300,000 |
| VOCA 2018-2020 Competitive #2 30-month grants | $350,000 | / | 30 | = | $11,666.67 | \* | 12 | = | $140,000 | \* | 3 | $420,000 |
| **TOTAL 2020-2023 ALLOCATION** | **$1,320,000** |

It is anticipated that current VOCA funding levels will sustain this allocation through September 30, 2023. However, should there be a significant decrease in Pennsylvania’s VOCA allocation in 2021 or 2022, allocations for years 2 and/or 3 may need to be revisited.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming VOCA funding announcement, please contact Victim Service Program Manager, Brian Swoyer at bswoyer@pa.gov or 717-264-8724.

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# Office Of Victims Services 2020-2024 Risk-Based Monitoring Plan

As part of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Federal Guidelines of 2016, State Administering Agencies (SAA) of VOCA funding must conduct on-site monitoring of all subrecipients at least every two years, unless a different frequency, based on a risk assessment, is set out in a monitoring plan. PCCD submitted a risk-based monitoring plan to the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) which has subsequently been approved. The monitoring plan is based on a scored risk assessment that determines the appropriate financial and programmatic monitoring, including the frequency of on-site visits.

The risk assessment calculated by PCCD is based on criteria to include, but not limited to, type of agency (non-profit, unit of local government, institution of higher education, etc.); accuracy of reported program and fiscal data; size of grant; timeliness of report submissions; success in meeting grant objectives; success in sustaining funded programs; and independent audit results.

The results of risk-based monitoring plan help guide OVS staff to make the appropriate financial and programmatic monitoring schedules for each organization. The results of the scored risk assessment will determine the agency’s risk level of either high, medium or low risk. In turn, the risk level determines the frequency of:

* Requests to an agency to provide documentation to support the data submitted in their fiscal and/or program report (quarterly data back-ups); and
* The frequency and intensity of monitoring (on-site visits and desk monitoring).

**Monitoring and Risk Level Designations**

**Low-Risk Assessment:**

Agencies will have an on-site monitoring visit every 4-years.

Submit quarterly back-ups, as requested.

Additionally, the agency may have a telephone or desk monitoring prior to the on-site visit. This is subject to change if PCCD determines there are fiscal or programmatic concerns that require a monitoring visit earlier.

**Medium-Risk Assessment:**

Agencies will have an on-site monitoring visit every 3-years.

Submit quarterly back-ups, as requested.

Additionally, the agency may have a telephone or desk monitoring prior to the on-site visit. This is subject to change if PCCD determines there are fiscal or programmatic concerns that require a monitoring visit earlier.

**High-Risk Assessment:**

Agencies will have an on-site monitoring visit every 2-years

Submit quarterly back-ups, as requested.

This is subject to change if PCCD determines there are fiscal or programmatic concerns that require a monitoring visit earlier.

**New sub-recipients of funding:**

All new recipients of funding will be monitored within the first year of the award. Subsequent monitoring visits will be scheduled based on their risk assessment after their on-site visit and their monitoring report is compliant.

A risk assessment has been completed on each subrecipient to develop a monitoring plan. PCCD will conduct an annual review of agencies to determine, based on their level of performance, if there should be changes to the frequency and intensity of its monitoring.

An agency’s risk level designation is noted on the main summary page in Egrants, next to the agency’s name. If you have any questions, please contact Victim Service Program Manager, Brian Swoyer at bswoyer@pa.gov or 717-265-8724.

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# Job Opening In The Office Of Victims’ Services

The Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) currently has vacancies for Criminal Justice System Specialists that will be posted within the next few weeks. These positions will encompass duties such as working with the multi-agency Efforts to Outcome (ETO) data reporting software; grants management to include reviewing applications, providing technical assistance, conducting monitoring, etc.; working with the STOP Violence Against Women (VAWA) program; and working within the Victims Compensation Assistance Program reviewing claims; conducting outreach to law enforcement; and providing financial reimbursement/guidance and other compensation related services to victims of crime, their families and/or significant others, and other claimants.

The vacancies are not posted at this time but should post in the next few weeks.  You can apply for the Criminal Justice System Specialist 1 vacancy at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau>. In the Search box, type Criminal Justice System Specialist and hit enter.  If any jobs are currently open, they will be listed.  Unlike in the past, there is no examination where a prospective candidate can be placed on a list with a score.  Under the new system, the score you receive is for that particular job announcement.  Interested candidates will need to apply for each individual position.

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# Network of Victim Assistance - Employment Opportunity

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), a nonprofit organization in Bucks County, PA serving victims of sexual assault and other crimes, seeks a part-time (27 hours per week) **HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE ORGANIZER** to join its team. The role of the Task Force Organizer is to serve as a primary point of contact for the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking (BCAT) task force leadership and membership. The goal of the position is to facilitate and coordinate community organization and action around human trafficking.  Responsibilities include management of administrative and operational activities of the task force including monitoring of and overall responsibility for the workplan goals established by the task force Advisory Committee.

Social work, human services or related Master’s degree preferred (Bachelor’s degree with relevant experience will be considered). The ideal candidate will have experience with community organization/community engagement, public speaking and training experience, and a flexible schedule to fulfill training requests and attend meetings.

Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Applicants must send a cover letter with salary requirements in addition to their resume to DebGH@novabucks.org. AA/EOE.

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# The MeToo Balancing Act In High School

Many boys and young men think the movement is essential for girls and women, but struggle with how they fit into it.

Last year, the private all-boys high school that Chris attends in Baltimore co-hosted an event with an all-girls high school. They discussed the #MeToo movement and sexual assault against girls.

Girls discreetly shared their own stories about assault and unwanted attention of their bodies as a way of giving boys greater insight into their experiences, said Chris, a high school senior. They were also “talking a lot about how guys abuse our privilege and power,” he added.

At some point in the discussion, some of his classmates asked questions, including one that challenged the “double standard” where girls could hit boys but “boys weren’t supposed to hit back to defend themselves,” said Chris, who, like others in this article, did not want his last name used because he feared online and offline retribution.

Please click [here](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/20/education/learning/metoo-students-high-school.html) to read more.

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# Measuring MeToo: A National Study On Sexual Harassment And Assault

This 2019 national survey reconfirms the findings of the 2018 national survey: Sexual harassment and assault are widespread problems in the United States, causing pain, limiting people’s lives, and negatively affecting communities and society. Study results show that most women and many men have experienced one or more form of harassment and assault, while a comparably smaller proportion tells us that they’ve ever committed these acts. This may indicate that many abusers are repeat offenders who abuse multiple people. The findings add to the large evidence base demonstrating that nearly all instances where someone is accused of sexual harassment are based in fact, and most respondents believe those who make high-profile accusations. Please click [here](http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/2019-MeToo-National-Sexual-Harassment-and-Assault-Report.pdf) to learn more.

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# Truckers Fighting Human Trafficking Are Trained To Be Alert To Late-Night Knocks

Brian Sprowel has seen a lot in his nearly 40 years as a professional truck driver. He's been to every state except Hawaii and has logged nearly 4 million miles across America's highways. But from his seat behind the wheel, he sometimes sees a much darker side of the country.

A few months ago, Sprowel said, he got a late-night knock on his door while he was resting at a truck stop in Quartzsite, Arizona. A sickly looking young woman came up to his truck window and asked whether he wanted any company. He said he pointed to the National Human Trafficking Hotline number on his truck and asked her: "Ma'am, is there something I can help you with? You see this number on the side of my truck? Do you need help?" She ended up running away, Sprowel said, but the red flags were enough for him to alert the authorities.

Other truck drivers sometimes call him an everyday hero, in part because he drives a Kenworth rig known as the "Everyday Heroes" T680, but also because of his involvement with [Truckers Against Trafficking](https://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/), or TAT.

Please click [here](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/truckers-fighting-human-trafficking-are-trained-be-alert-late-night-n1120661) to read more.

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# Nurse’s Program Makes Undergarments Available For Sexual Assault Victims Leaving The Hospital

Emergency room nurse Martha Phillips watched a rape survivor walk out of the hospital in oversize scrubs last December, her arms clutched tightly around her chest in embarrassment because her bra had been taken as evidence. Phillips was outraged on her behalf.

Phillips had just given the woman a three-hour forensic exam at Peace-Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Bellingham, Wash.

“Somebody who has been sexually assaulted has gone through enough trauma,” said Phillips, who has worked as a nurse for almost 14 years and last year examined 136 rape and sexual assault survivors. “And then they have to leave the hospital feeling exposed, without a bra or a decent pair of underwear? It was just unacceptable.”

That afternoon, Phillips, 40, stopped by a family department store in Bellingham and bought $150 worth of bras and underwear to keep at the hospital. Then she posted a photo of the undergarments on Facebook, along with a sentiment that has now been shared more than 100,000 times.

Please click [here](https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/PhiladelphiaInquirer/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=PHQP%2F2020%2F03%2F08&entity=Ar02201&sk=3E27E09D&mode=text) to read more.

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# Post Conviction Survivor Resources

Healing Justice has launched Post Conviction Survivor Resources, a new website funded by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime. This new website offers practical tools to victim service providers, prosecutors, police, and other justice professionals for assisting crime victims in cases involving post-conviction claims of innocence and exonerations. Please click [here](https://www.survivorservices.org/) to learn more.

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# National Elder Fraud Hotline: Providing Help, Restoring Hope

OVC has launched a new Elder Fraud Hotline and website, where help is available to victims of elder fraud. This hotline is a free resource for people to report fraud against anyone age 60 or older. Please click [here](https://stopelderfraud.ovc.ojp.gov/) to learn more.

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# ****The Role Of Elder Justice Coordinators In The U.S. Attorneys’ Offices****

National prevalence studies indicate that at least 10% of older Americans experience some form of elder abuse in a given year, with an additional 5% being the victim of financial fraud. The consequences of harms generally, and financial harms in particular, are devastating for older Americans, especially those on fixed incomes or living in long-term care facilities. Older victims who lose part of–or their entire—life savings are unable to recoup those losses. Most are unable to engage in gainful employment and the likelihood of financial recovery is slim. The strain of financial loss leads to poor health outcomes and, for many, early mortality. Please click [here](https://apstarc.acl.gov/APS-Blog/February-28-2020.aspx) to read more.

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# Women In Prison: Seeking Justice Behind Bars

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a report titled Women in Prison: Seeking Justice Behind Bars. The report covers a range of issues incarcerated women face, including access to healthcare, prevention of sexual assault, discipline and segregated housing, parental rights, and availability of programming. The report provides examples of prison administrations seeking to address these issues and it evaluates the response of the federal government. The Commission’s research includes examination of high rates of a history of trauma reported by incarcerated women, as well as policies responsive to this trauma. Please click [here](https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/briefing-reports/2020-02-26-Women-in-Prison.php) to learn more.

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# Updated Trends In Child Maltreatment, 2018

New national data for 2018 show a marked increase in sexual abuse for the first time in over 15 years, up 6% from 2017.  At the same time physical abuse rates were essentially unchanged. Neglect rose 1% and child maltreatment fatalities rose 3%. Please click [here](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV203%20-%20Updated%20trends%202018_ks_df.pdf) to learn more.

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# 2020 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW)

Every April, OVC helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRW, which will be observed in 2020 from April 19–25. This year's theme is **Seek Justice | Ensure Victims' Rights | Inspire Hope**. The weeklong initiative promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. The 2020 color palette, customizable Theme Poster, and the Theme Poster source art are now available to help the field prepare for NCVRW.

* Theme Colors: dark blue, dark green, with an optional light green. View the [2020 NCVRW Color Palette](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/pdf/2020NCVRWThemePalette.pdf) (PDF 487 kb).
* Theme Poster: Download a customizable copy of the [2020 NCVRW Theme Poster](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/pdf/2020NCVRW_Theme_Poster-11x17-english.pdf) (PDF 204 kb) and the [2020 NCVRW Theme Poster Source Art](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/images/00-2020_NCVRW_Theme_Poster_final_eng.eps) (Illustrator 7 mb).

Sign up for the [National Crime Victims' Rights Week Subscription List](https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/Listservs/Subscribe_NCVRW.asp) to receive information about the release of the 2020 NCVRW Resource Guide.

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# Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System

PCCD’s Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) offers its Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System to fill a need for easily accessible, high-quality, free training for victim advocates at PCCD-funded programs. PVST courses count for PCCD training hours and courses can be taken as the learner’s schedule permits. The PVST also keeps a record of a user’s course completion and credit hours earned.  The courses on the PVST are designed to complement, reinforce and enhance the PCCD Foundational Academy and the online offerings on the learning management systems operated by PCADV, PCAR and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

The PVST is resource center for PCCD funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations to receive free, quality, and easily accessible training. The training is Pennsylvania-specific, web based, and can be taken on the student’s own timeframe. There are currently 28 approved programs, totaling 54 hours of training, on the PVST.

To access the PVST, go to the website at <https://pavictimservicestraining.org/>.  The registration code is 7223.

The Human Trafficking & Addiction, Holding the Leash trainings Part 1 & 2 were released in December 2019. Part 1 will review risk factors that make someone more susceptible to being trafficked, how drugs are used to lure and keep individuals in a trafficking situation, and some ways in which individuals move through the continuum of care from referral to treatment. Part 2 will cover treatment recommendations and potential treatment barriers for those who have been trafficked, and how to create the appropriate therapeutic environment to enable the best clinical outcomes for a trafficking survivor.

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# EVAWI: Trauma-Informed Interviewing And The Criminal Sexual Assault Case: Where Investigative Technique Meets Evidentiary Value

EVAWI announced the second installment in its training bulletin series on trauma-informed interviewing and investigations: *Trauma-Informed Interviewing and the Criminal Sexual Assault Case: Where Investigative Technique Meets Evidentiary Value.* In this installment, EVAWI explores what types of evidence can potentially be produced from a trauma-informed interview with a sexual assault victim, and what it can (and cannot) accomplish within the US legal system. Recommendations are offered for how such evidence should (and should not) be used during the course of a sexual assault investigation and prosecution. With prosecution expert Roger Canaff as the lead author, and co-authors Dr. Kim Lonsway and Sgt. Joanne Archambault (Ret.), this training bulletin builds on the groundwork laid out in the first installment: [*Becoming Trauma-Informed: Learning and Appropriately Applying the Neurobiology of Trauma to Victim Interviews*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0014JXY_W9keZif6Ke7P_CLbBTpnYR8b688HyVYro3Gx8RUOcqZuWJYC_Am2Vi9FoKyYci3Z8X58PxGjWyKx4SX1t6suEmyvUVQRl_DEr3ly_lUDH8Fg78Pim60x457adda5YfvwjSiTy-umu90rzl96Z_NqMgu0ztHO7R_l0yFoJLiv9eHpfUrIM1KPNCF9YZfEgFVR1wWA_tmXolAq8v_cTI035lR50R-TlkdSos69TCHf0xiQcJPhIBnRQdfxQZHlFwfP1Ji6DmUSwcpC14siX-_YYbAmNey8R_bkgCEzPBDEqCySgV-lT6vHbXpwjAi0nl_bOpKkNGHcsd7zIsE138070tyFZDS_ygFub9LFdDTvxFuSPnKxCg1nswM8-VGNPYDo8wfO88WTBzPCyi4LB3kx20gCsXpul4LwHDh6K25-BUoK_Qm5biSA-1Ep4tyZ5QbYGO0z8EdJVduG_VIWkiuqybZIl4UqAWbkq5rpVAZEoGJPZ03rC3NRfqeqX9tkFOB0VPmLqBfbMIUm6xZPHeUuZQgQMhNI3yJ2En9carl03DXLx2rD7W4WizE-aSp&c=dBprJ-g41LLGpy8vGZXWe6wDNKZukyMU-9ZeiOFTuBAgnsT6qhHx-A==&ch=7kDZRfxkR59SyNmEUZ2LGoBMcT5ECwE342cu5VEUcH1wxyTjahiWZA==).  Please click [here](https://www.evawintl.org/Library/DocumentLibraryHandler.ashx?id=1387) to learn more.

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# UPDATE: 2020 Freedom Network USA Human Trafficking Conference

Due to the forced cancellation of the in-person conference, the 2020 FNUSA Conference will no longer take place in Miami, FL on March 18-19. Instead, they will be offering a virtual conference. Please click [here](https://freedomnetworkusa.org/training/conference/update-on-2020-conference/) to learn more.

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# RESCHEDULED: STOP Domestic Violence: Dauphin County

The March 25th STOP Domestic Violence: Dauphin County training held by the PA Office of Victim Advocate will be rescheduled. Please keep an eye out for a future date.

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# RESCHEDULED: Network Of Victim Assistance Auction & Gala

Thursday, October 15, 2020

5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Warrington Country Club

1360 Almshouse Road

Warrington, PA 18976

This year's theme, An Evening in the Roaring 20's, will take guests back 100 years to the 1920's and will feature 20's themed food stations, dancing, drinks, entertainment and live and silent auctions. Auction items include a private dinner party at Bocelli's Italian Restaurant, a spring yard clean-up package, a garden tea party for 8, dining experiences, adventures and getaways, artwork, jewelry, museum, theater and sports tickets and much more! New auction items are added weekly. Event proceeds benefit NOVA’s work in both helping victims of crime and preventing violence through education and advocacy programs.

Tickets for the Auction & Gala are $85.00 per person. The dress code for the event is business casual or 1920's themed attire. To purchase tickets, make a donation, or receive more information, please click [here](https://e.givesmart.com/events/e1u/), or contact Jill Mann at 215-343-6543 ext. 6602. Those who are unable to attend the gala can still get in on the auction fun and bid on items online via www.NOVA.givesmart.com, by clicking on "Register to Participate" and following the prompts.

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# CANCELLED: 2020 International Conference On Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence And Violence Across The Lifespan

This conference has been cancelled due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Although the federal government has yet to restrict public travel, several states, universities, local and city governments are prohibiting travel. Many medical facilities have cancelled voluntary leave, and the CDC is recommending the avoidance of large gatherings as a means of mitigating the potential spread of the virus.

**Rescheduling**

They are exploring all options at this point, including rescheduling the conference for later in the year, but this depends on a number of factors such as if and when the hotel has space available for a conference of this size. In addition, they want to make sure that the current health risk is completely resolved before confirming any possible new dates.

**Registrants can find information about their options for cancelling on the** [**Costs Page**](http://www.cvent.com/events/international-conference-on-sexual-assault-domestic-violence-and-violence-across-the-lifespan/custom-17-8e6420fcdc134cbba1abe0215e8f6422.aspx?fqp=true)**.**

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# Webinar: Moving Beyond The "Honor System": Effective Strategies To Prevent Prohibited Abusers' Access To Firearms

This webinar, hosted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), offers practice tips and strategies for legal system professionals who are implementing domestic violence firearm surrender processes. Presenters describe the factors that contribute to a firearms surrender "honor system," and offers concrete examples of how communities can move away from this and toward a “Culture of Compliance” in their court systems. The webinar addresses what can be done at key steps of the civil protection order process, using examples from jurisdictions around the country. Please click [here](https://www.ncjfcj.org/webcasts/moving-beyond-the-honor-system-effective-strategies-to-prevent-prohibited-abusers-access-to-firearms/) to learn more.

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

The following training will be held on March 25, 2020:

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

The following trainings will be held on March 31, 2020.

 “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

 Counseling Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on April 15, 2020.

 Relocation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

 Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on April 21, 2020.

 Myths of Compensation - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

 Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on April 28, 2020.

 Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

 Loss of Earnings Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on May 5, 2020.

 Loss of Support Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

 Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on May 12, 2020.

 Counseling Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Relocation Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following training will be held on May 19, 2020.

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

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation, which counts towards 2 hours, and DAVE training, which counts towards 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

A recording of the Sexual Assault Counseling Claims Legislative Change Webex is available [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6). This training can be accessed at any time for viewing.

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# Free Webinar: Applying Principles-Focused Evaluation In The Sexual Violence Prevention Context

March 26, 2020

2:00-3:30 p.m. – Eastern

NSVRC is pleased to offer this free webinar introducing preventionists to principles-focused evaluation (PFE), which identifies principles describing core values and behaviors used to foster successful prevention work. PFE complements outcome evaluation and supports decision making during prevention implementation. Participants will learn how to incorporate their own sexual violence prevention effectiveness principles into their evaluation approach.  This learning will be accompanied by examples from Washington state’s experience of engaging preventionists in the process of identifying principles – a project supported by the State Department of Health.

After this webinar, participants will be able to:

* Define Principles-Focused Evaluation and articulate how it complements other types of program evaluation.
* Describe the process involved in identifying and refining effectiveness principles.
* Articulate ways that the principles-identification process can reconnect staff to the values underlying their own prevention work.
* Describe the process involved in developing a Principles-Focused Evaluation plan.

Please click [here](http://endingsvtogether.pcar.org/site/Calendar/986507893?view=RSVP&id=100763) to learn more and to register.

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# Webinar: Survivor’s Circle

Start off the new year and decade by making yourself a priority. Many of us are driven to work in the anti-violence movement because we are survivors of trauma ourselves. Being a survivor/advocate can be both challenging and rewarding. Join other survivors/advocates for this guided discussion and support circle about serving in this dual role and caring for our survivor selves while working in the field.

Caring for Yourself as a Survivor While Walking with Others Through Their Journey

March 26, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Trainer: Erika Brosig, LCSW

This training qualifies for 3 PCCD-approved training hours. Questions? Please email Amelia Smulktis at AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com.

For more information or to register, please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/ec3300/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=150297999646403839&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=pccd&confViewID=150297999646403839&internalProgramTicketUnList=null).

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# A Look Beneath The Surface: Human Trafficking In Our Local Community

Thursday, April 2, 2020

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Medure’s Catering at the Villa

2500 New Butler Road, New Castle, PA 16101

This training is intended for law enforcement, judges, court personnel, prosecutors, probation, parole, victim advocates, social workers, counselors, mental health and allied professionals, children, youth and families services and other professionals.

The cost of training is $30 and includes breakfast and lunch. This training is FREE for all Lawrence County Law Enforcement.

Please click [here](https://www.crisisshelter.org/2020/02/21/human-trafficking-in-our-local-community/) to learn more and to register. For information on how to obtain CLEES, CLEs, and CEUs, please contact Waynetta Austin at 724-856-4321 or waustin@crisisshelter.org.

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# 2020 Crime Victims’ Rights Rally

The 2020 Crime Victims’ Rights Rally will be held on April 20, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Harrisburg State Capitol (Rotunda).

Exhibitor tables can be reserved through Monic Iskric at msiskr@ship.edu.

A post-rally event sponsored by The Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) will be held immediately following the Rally.

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# Topical Training Announcement: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In the state of Pennsylvania over 80,000 children are being raised by their grandparents, many due to the opioid crisis. In recent years legislation has been passed, pilot programs developed, and hotlines created to assist grandparents in taking on this overwhelming task. If you are interested in learning more about this topic and tools to help you when working with victims who are in this situation, register for this important training.

Monday, May 18, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

**Registration closes on April 27, 2020**. This course is open to all victim service providers, including attorneys. Class size is limited to 40 attendees.

Please click [here](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500203&RegType=ATT) to learn more and to register.

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# Fifth Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Forensic Nursing Conference

Save the date for the Fifth Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Forensic Nursing Conference!

Date: Friday, May 1, 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Abington Jefferson Health, 1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001

Cost: $65 (includes breakfast and lunch)

We will be applying for CEUs for Registered Nurses and Social Workers

**Registration is scheduled to begin approximately March 1, 2020**

Topics include:

* Suspect exams
* Male violence in intimate relations and the Emerge program of Massachusetts
* From Forensic Exam to Prosecution
* Women That Molest Children
* How traffickers are using the prison system to recruit and exploit women who have been incarcerated
* The Me Too Movement

Please click [here](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07egwnoyqy3c43d7aa&llr=6nqn8gdab&showPage=true) to learn more. For questions, please contact Debbie Nugent at 267-488-1487 or debbie@novabucks.org.

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# SAVE THE DATE - 2020 Foundational Academies

Foundational Academies will be held:

* July 15 - 17 in Cranberry Township (Pittsburgh area)
* October 7 - 9 in King of Prussia (Philadelphia area)

Important Changes for 2020:

* There will be only **three** Academies this year and there will be **no** Harrisburg Academy.
* Each Academy is open to **50** attendees and is first-come, first-served for those who are mandated to attend per PCCD.
* Lunch will be provided **instead of** break-time snacks.
* Small room blocks are reserved at a discount for those attending the Cranberry Township or King of Prussia Academies (\*\*\*Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations and for the costs. If you are planning to register for one of these Academies and wish to make early hotel reservations, please contact Amy Smulktis for the discount code/link).

**Registration for each academy will open approximately 60 days prior to the state date under the PDAI Training Calendar at** [**www.pdaa.org**](http://www.pdaa.org)**.** Registration is first come, first served for those VOCA, VOJO, and RASA funded individuals who are required to attend per PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Services Standards. There is also a supplemental online training requirement in addition to the 3-day classroom academy.

If you have any questions about the above webinar, the 2020 Academies, or wish to be added to her Quarterly Restitution & V/W Training Newsletter, please email the Training Consultant, Amy Smulktis, at AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com.

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# SAVE THE DATE: 2020 KCIT Conference: Conscious Resilience After Trauma

Keystone Crisis Intervention Team is excited to announce a call for workshop proposals for the 2020 KCIT Conference: Conscious Resilience After Trauma. KCIT is seeking proposals that highlight best practices, current trends and/or innovative topics. As this conference is sponsored through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, workshops must include a connection to victimization and trauma.

The Conference will be held on September 22-23, 2020 in York, PA at Heritage Hills Resort.

Submissions: Please click [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCITConference2019RFP).

For Questions: please contact Donna Welsh at donna.welsh@novabucks.org

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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 Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov.

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **April 1, 2020**. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov by Wednesday, **March 25, 2020**.

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 Stacie Brendlinger at (717) 265-8722 or via email at sbrendling@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.