**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

*Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

May 4, 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 Coronavirus Relief Survey

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With the passage of the [Federal Coronavirus Relief Act (CARES Act)](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/748/text), PCCD has been tasked with distributing available funding to support state and local law enforcement's efforts (e.g., district attorney's offices; county jail, sheriff and probation offices; detention centers; police departments; victim service providers; etc.) in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the COVID-19/coronavirus.  Permissible use of funds may include, but are not limited to:

* Overtime expenditures
* Equipment purchases
* Hiring
* Supplies
* Training
* Travel expenses
* Addressing the medical needs of inmates.

Through the survey, PCCD seeks to gain more information pertaining to the level of need throughout the Commonwealth.  Please click [here](https://prdpccd.pwpca.pa.gov/criminaljustice/Pages/Coronavirus-Emergency-Relief-Fund-Survey.aspx) to learn more and to complete the survey.

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# Information and Resources Related To COVID 19

Below is Information and Resources related to how COVID 19 impacts services to victims of crime.

* 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.
* Please see PCCD’s COVID-19 information page for subrecipients at [https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Subrecepients.aspx](https://prdpccd.pwpca.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Subrecepients.aspx). As we continue to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and the uncertainty related to when everyone's normal business operations may resume, we will update this page with important information and guidance for our subrecipients.
* RAINN, here are new resources for “Sexual Violence Preparedness and Response During COVID-19”: [https://www.rainn.org/articles/sexual-violence-preparedness-and-response-during-covid-19](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rainn.org%2Farticles%2Fsexual-violence-preparedness-and-response-during-covid-19&data=02%7C01%7Cbcc%40fireeyeatp.pa.gov%7Cae93af9b980648c2a96208d7eaea55b7%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637236165963677755&sdata=Av57O5TloNRCDb8BZInpn%2BsH%2BdKse%2B3JlGqeHoWlLHU%3D&reserved=0)
* The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence regularly updates its resources relevant to COVID-19 and victim services at [http://www.ncadv.org/covid-19-and-domestic-violence](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncadv.org%2Fcovid-19-and-domestic-violence&data=02%7C01%7Cbcc%40fireeyeatp.pa.gov%7Cae93af9b980648c2a96208d7eaea55b7%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637236165963697670&sdata=eJkbkg5%2B%2BYYYkk1IEWnF1fgI6CtFncyCNOHS3jrZrW4%3D&reserved=0)
* From the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council, here’s a report about coronavirus-related discrimination: <http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/STOP_AAPI_HATE_MONTHLY_REPORT_4_23_20.pdf>
* Given the current COVID-19 crisis, outreach and education is taking place at a distance. The [National Council on Aging tip sheet](https://d2mkcg26uvg1cz.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Tools-for-Reaching-a-Remote-Audience.pdf)provides an overview of some popular tools to reach out to and connect with your audience.
* NRCDV gathered select resources that can offer helpful guidance for domestic violence programs in preparing for and responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Click here to access the information: [Preventing & Managing the Spread of COVID-19 Within Domestic Violence Programs](https://vawnet.org/news/preventing-managing-spread-covid-19-within-domestic-violence-programs)
* 19 Resources + Guidance for CACs: Chart our path with NCA's roadmap for Children's Advocacy Centers and communities on delivering critical services to children and families during the coronavirus outbreak. <https://learn.nationalchildrensalliance.org/covid>
* COVID-19 is creating new challenges for survivors with disabilities and their service providers. Visit our Sustaining Services for Survivors with Disabilities During COVID-19 page for more information and resources**.** [Read more »](https://www.endabusepwd.org/sustaining-services-for-survivors-with-disabilities-during-covid-19/)
* [Free COVID-19 Language Access Response](https://celery-apple-e4zh.squarespace.com/free-covid-19-response)
* National Children’s Alliance Resource Page: [Coronavirus Resources for CACS, Partners, and Caregivers](https://learn.nationalchildrensalliance.org/covid)
* The National Sexual Violence Resource Center provides some key resources and recommendations on COVID-19 as it relates to our work to end sexual harassment, abuse, and assault <https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/resources-for-covid-19-response>
* PCADV’s website provides useful information & resources for domestic violence programs, victims, and survivors: <https://www.pcadv.org/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>
* The World Health Organization released important guidelines with plenty of URL links to additional information about “mental health and psychosocial considerations during COVIC-19 outbreak” that are quite relevant to our work: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf?sfvrsn=6d3578af\_8](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.who.int%2Fdocs%2Fdefault-source%2Fcoronaviruse%2Fmental-health-considerations.pdf%3Fsfvrsn%3D6d3578af_8&data=02%7C01%7CKAbuckley%40pa.gov%7Cf65403a4f367484e40d808d7ca64c52e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637200407854779080&sdata=QkVlTCVGfopgiHSlCD8De3GKEERQ5wgHKxwNoHgHSGI%3D&reserved=0)

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# ATTENTION VOJO PROGRAMS – VOJO LAPSING FUNDS – PLEASE DON’T FORGET TO USE YOUR VOJO FUNDING BY JUNE 30, 2020!

Recipients of 2019 VOJO (VJ) funds, denoted on your Award Letter as:

2019 VJ Award Amount      $ xx.xx

2019 VJ Project Period        7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020

This is a reminder that ***VOJO funds not expended or obligated from this funding source by June 30, 2020 will lapse****.*

Any outstanding obligations as of 6/30/2020 should be reported in the Outstanding Subgrantee Obligations column on the fiscal report for the period ending 6/30/2020.

An interim fiscal report will need to be submitted once the reported Outstanding Subgrantee Obligations are paid.  A remark must be included noting the reported expenditures were attributable to the period 7/1/2019-6/30/2020.

**It is the responsibility of the subgrantee to monitor these amounts**.

If you have any questions or need to request a copy of your Award Letter, **please contact the fiscal contact staff person listed on your VOJO grant**.

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# Alliance For Safety & Justice: Send A Letter Of Support & Solidarity Now

Right now, Coronavirus has created a lot of fear and uncertainty. Many of us are facing health, housing, and financial worries. And many of us are cut off from the communities that we usually lean on for support. But we don't have to be...

That’s why the Alliance for Safety & Justice is asking you to take 5 minutes to write a positive note of solidarity and support to survivors of crime, and survivors in this moment. Times are tough, and communities like ours, that are already coping with trauma and anxiety, are even more vulnerable during times like this. These notes matter. Each week, they will take your notes, design them, and make sure survivors see that they are not going through this alone. Your words will help someone who is experiencing fear, anxiety, isolation, and vulnerability.

If you’ve been looking for a way to help support your community, please take the time to [write a letter](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/send-a-letter-of-support-solidarity-now) of support today.

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# A Woman’s Place - Employment Opportunities

A Woman’s Place (AWP), a community-based social change organization serving victims of domestic violence, is seeking a part-time Resident Counseling Advocate and a full-time Bi-Lingual First Response Advocate.

The Resident Counseling Advocate works within AWP’s emergency safe house, assisting victims of domestic violence in achieving safety and self-sufficiency. AWP is currently hiring a 32 hour a week part-time position. Positions may include weekday, evening, and/or overnight shifts.

The Bi-Lingual First Response Advocate provides immediate crisis and safety counseling to victims of domestic violence when contacted by local police departments and provides court accompaniment through the criminal justice system with a focus on the Spanish speaking population. AWP is hiring 1 full-time position requiring schedule flexibility to assist in providing 24/7 response. Must be fluent in Spanish.

For full job descriptions and application process please visit our website: [https://awomansplace.org/get-involved/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fawomansplace.org%2Fget-involved%2F&data=02%7C01%7Csbrendling%40pa.gov%7C05605b711196466a36e808d7e6103c13%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637230829715543440&sdata=crkTLivE1w%2Bz%2FaffAbsTKBDUZRftplAHRgjpzYrABJ0%3D&reserved=0)

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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](mailto:DebGH@novabucks.org). AA/EOE.

**NOVA is currently working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.  Although the physical interview process is on hold, they are still reviewing all the applicants as they come in.  They will be conducting in-person interviews as soon as possible.**

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# Victim Impact Of PA State Inmate Releases

Pennsylvania leaders and citizens are working tirelessly to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 virus across the state. This includes the consideration of inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities who are close to their potential parole date, as it reduces the risk of spread inside the institutions.   
   
OVA is working to ensure that no cases with identified victims are being considered for release. This is a time consuming but worthwhile process. The Department of Corrections (DOC) is providing a list of proposed offenders to our office, and our staff are cross-referencing lists of state offenders with registered victim data and asking DOC to remove any cases where victim(s) would be reasonably associated. This should eliminate the inclusion of inmates who have committed personal injury crimes, such as, burglary, theft, etc. from consideration. Our team is also cross-referencing these lists with the PFAD database to ensure there is no history of a PFA or domestic violence.   
   
Your county district attorneys are receiving the same lists from DOC containing inmates proposed for release from state correctional facilities due to the Governor’s reprieve order. District attorneys will review cases and have been asked to provide feedback to DOC. District attorneys will have access to the criminal history of the offender and the fact specific circumstances of each case and will provide relevant information to DOC. This information can include whether or not more violent charges were dropped, or if the offender has a violent history. However, the DA’s position is not controlling, and an inmate may be released over the objection of the DA. At OVA, we are unable to identify cases that have been plead down from a violent offense, to an offense with no identifiable victim. For those cases we must rely on our county district attorney's offices to provide information to DOC as described above.    
   
**County Inmate Releases**  
Inmates housed in county correctional facilities are not subject to the Governor’s reprieve order; however, at the direction of the Supreme Court – each county is required to review cases in their own facilities to determine if there are inmates appropriate for release. Because each county is different, you should reach out to your district attorney to see what the process is for any early releases.

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# How The Pandemic Creates Obstacles For Sexual Assault Survivors

In March of last year, forensic nurse examiners in Washington, D.C., had encounters with 42 patients seeking treatment for sexual assault. As the novel coronavirus spread during the same month this year, they saw 24 patients, a 43% decrease from 2019.

Those numbers trouble Erin Pollitt, executive director of the District of Columbia Forensic Nurse Examiners, the only provider of sexual assault forensic exams for adults in the district. Since the outbreak, the crime rate has fallen steeply in many American cities and counties. But like other forensic nurses, Pollitt fears the virus could be preventing sexual assault victims from coming forward to seek medical care and have physical evidence collected.

“There could be a variety of factors” that explain the numbers, Pollitt says. “But I would say that the fear of going to a hospital related to COVID is probably a large contributor.” Please click [here](https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/how-the-pandemic-creates-obstacles-for-sexual-assault-survivors) to read more.

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# Special Feature: Child Abuse

Child abuse and neglect is a substantial public health concern that can lead to devastating outcomes for victims long into adulthood. For victims of abuse, the negative effects are wide-ranging. Child abuse is associated with lower school achievement, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and mental health problems. Research funded by the [National Institute of Justice](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/pathways-between-child-maltreatment-and-adult-criminal-involvement) (NIJ) showed that child abuse increased the risk of crime in adulthood by promoting antisocial behavior during childhood and adolescence. Please click [here](https://www.ncjrs.gov/childabuse/index.html?utm_campaign=newsfromncjrs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to read more.

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# Responding To Child Abuse During A Pandemic: 25 Tips For MDTs

Many child protection professionals believe child abuse is likely to increase during the COVID-19 pandemic because most abusers are parents or siblings who now have more complete access to the child victim. In turn, the victim may no longer have schoolteachers, faith leaders or other mandated reporters they can access for help or who may detect a sign of abuse. Children may also have reduced access to medical and mental health providers. In responding to this concern, here are some tips Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) may wish to employ. Please click [here](https://cdn2.zeroabuseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Responding-to-Child-Abuse-During-a-Pandemic-1-1.pdf) to read 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%. The data used in producing the graphs and tables come from a special calculation obtained from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to supplement the data published in the original report. NCANDS aggregates and publishes statistics from state child protection agencies. The most recent data from NCANDS were released in January 2020, and concern cases of maltreatment investigated in 2018. Please click [here](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV203%20-%20Updated%20trends%202018_ks_df.pdf) to read more.

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# Courts, Police And Advocates Use Technology During Pandemic To Help Prevent Domestic Violence

Many victims of domestic abuse are currently left no option than to shelter in place and to stay in their home with their abuser to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As a result, many communities are implementing creative solutions, often working remotely and incorporating the use of technology, to protect victims and prevent violence. Many officials are now utilizing teleconferencing, webinars, and other methods for victims to access protective measures, while also balancing complex issues such as confidentiality and safety. Please click [here](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/blog/courts-police-and-advocates-use-technology-during-pandemic-help-prevent-domestic-violence) to read more.

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# Lessons For Surviving Crises, From The Wisest Among Us

The COVID-19 pandemic has us asking difficult questions: How will we survive this? What are we willing to sacrifice? What comes next? In a moment that feels unprecedented, we can learn from the hard-won wisdom of a generation that weathered the most devastating events of the 20th century and lived to tell the tale. Karl Pillemer, the Hazel E. Reed Professor in the College of Human Ecology’s Department of Human Development, began a 10-year project interviewing older Americans in 2003, his research described in his 2012 book, “30 Lessons for Loving: Tried and True Advice from the Wisest Americans.” For his research, Pillemer started with the premise that older people have invaluable knowledge on how to live well through hard times. The average age of his interviewees was 77; the oldest was 108. Approximately 1,000 of them outlasted the Great Depression, 1,200 endured World War II and 60 survived the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. Please click [here](https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2020/03/lessons-surviving-crises-wisest-among-us) to read more.

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# Pennsylvania Offers Resources For Victims, Survivors Of Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault

Department of Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller joined representatives from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence to remind Pennsylvanians that resources and assistance are available to victims and survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence during COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

“Even though we are all staying at home to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we know that staying at home is not necessarily the safest place for many victims and survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence. I want to be clear — if you need help, help is available. You are not alone,” said DHS Secretary Teresa Miller. “No one should have to face an increased risk to their safety, and help is available thanks to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.” Please click [here](https://www.delcotimes.com/news/coronavirus/pennsylvania-offers-resources-for-victims-survivors-of-domestic-violence-and-sexual-assault/article_9a8f2a7c-848c-11ea-845d-3fa08a253507.html) to read more.

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# Issues, Rights & Concerns During COVID-19

Last week’s webinar cosponsored by the National Center for Victims of Crime and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys has archived the “Issues, Rights & Concerns During COVID-19” webinar. Please click [here](https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/8390804646536815887) to view the recording.

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# ****Webinar: The Daily Life Realities Of A Parent With An Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)****

Wednesday, May 6th, 2020

3:00 p.m. ET

For those whose are trying to serve victims and their families, an opioid use disorder can be an added complication. Failing to understand this disorder—including the pathways that contributed to it and the impacts that make recovery challenging—restrict our ability to serve these persons.

Join presenter Pam Baston for a presentation on how opioid use disorder affects the daily reality of those who suffer from it, including the typical stages of opioid preoccupation, procurement, consumption, withdrawal, and overdose that can result in harmful outcomes for them, their children, and other family members. The webinar will also include suggestions about how to balance our knowledge of these realities with common sense and practical solutions to help such families get on a healthy road to recovery.

To learn more and to register, please click [here](https://secure.icohere.com/registration/register.cfm?reg=6934&evt=CVR-OUD&t=639570330&t=1588253305662).

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# Webinar: Just Ask: How Advocates, Law Enforcement, And Attorneys Can Better Meet The Needs Of Crime Victims With Disabilities By Asking About And Providing Accommodations

Thursday, May 7th, 2020

2:00 p.m. ET

People with disabilities and Deaf people are victims of violent crime at three times the rate of people without disabilities. They also experience some of the greatest obstacles to accessing justice and healing services. These barriers make it difficult, if not impossible, to fully participate in the legal system or heal from the trauma they’ve experienced. An important way to increase access to justice, safety, and healing opportunities is by providing people with accommodations.

[Just Ask: A Toolkit to Help Advocates, Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Meet the Needs of Crime Victims with Disabilities](http://reachingvictims.org/resource/just-ask/) was created in response to conversations with advocates and criminal justice professionals, many of whom are open to asking about accommodations, but don’t know how and are worried about saying the wrong thing. This webinar will provide an overview of the vision for the toolkit, illuminate key components, and leave participants with a roadmap for next steps for their organization.

To learn more and to register, please click [here](https://verainstitute.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k4NJoZM3QB2P0NL4FsV8bg).

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# NOVA/NCVLI Brown Bag Webinar For OVW Grantees & Partners On Military/Veteran Victim Service Programs

Thursday, May 7th, 2020

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) and the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) are the new DOJ Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) providers for the FY19 Military/Veterans Victim Services grant. Through specialized trainings, webinars and consultations with grantees, potential grantees and sub-grantees NOVA/NCVLI's goal is to strengthen coordinated community responses to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by improving communication/collaboration between the military and civilian criminal justice systems.

To learn more and to register, please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/militaryveteran-victim-service-programs-tickets-99241438815).

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# Webinar: Chronic Diseases, Health Conditions, And Other Impacts Associated With Rape Victimization Of U.S. Women

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020

2:00 p.m. ET

Sexual violence (SV) is an urgent public health issue that is common and has lifelong effects on health. While previous studies documented the link between SV victimization and numerous health conditions, much of that research focused on outcomes from child sexual abuse and used non-nationally representative samples.

Kathleen C. Basile, Ph.D., a Senior Scientist in the Division of Violence Prevention at The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and discussant from NSVRC will review findings from a recent study using a nationally representative sample of females to examine health outcomes and impacts associated with any lifetime experience of rape. The study included a separate examination of injury and health outcomes (including fear) resulting from any violence by a perpetrator of rape. The webinar will include information about the rate of reported physical injury, rate of infection from a sexually transmitted disease, and the overall rate of impact as a result of violence by a rape perpetrator. It will also address the adjusted odds that rape victims will experience asthma, irritable bowel syndrome, frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical or mental health, and use of special equipment (e.g., wheelchair)—compared to non-victims. Presenters will discuss the implications of these findings for prevention and response.

To learn more and to register, please click [here](https://secure.icohere.com/registration/register.cfm?reg=6974&evt=cvr-chronic&t=640104566&t=1586807743182).

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

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.

The following trainings will be held on May 26, 2020.

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Medical Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on June 3, 2020.

* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation”– 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Myths of Compensation – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following training will be held on June 11, 2020.

* Medical Expenses Clinic – 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 June 17, 2020.

* Funeral & Burial 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 June 23, 2020.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Medical Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on July 1, 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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# 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.

**With the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing an increase in financial crimes against people. Our older adult population is often the target against these types of crimes. These crimes come in many different forms, from simple theft to sophisticated scams. The Financial Crimes Against Older Adults Training Module was developed in February 2019, however, it is a great training that for those that are new to financial crimes against older adults or as a refresher for those that have experience. This course features interviews with a seasoned investigator of financial exploitation against the elderly. He offers victim advocates a wealth of information about how these crimes take place, common victim reactions and valuable tips for assisting this underserved victim population. This course counts for two (2) continuing education credits.**

To access the PVST, please click [here](https://pavictimservicestraining.org/).  The registration code is **7223**.

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# Webinar: Understanding and Combating Cyberbullying and Digital/Online Hate

This webinar will give the audience a clear understanding of cyberbullying, including online/digital hate, and provide strategies to help youth build protective factors against these negative influences.

**\*\*Registration for this event is closed.** However, the webinar recording will be available at [**NTTAC's YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMVg2tlVluJlDdug9C3QKRA)Channel approximately one week after the conclusion of the event (**April 27, 2020**)

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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, August 10, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

**Registration closes on July 24, 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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# 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](mailto:donna.welsh@novabucks.org)

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# SAVE THE DATE: 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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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](mailto:sbrendling@pa.gov).

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **May 13, 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](mailto:sbrendling@pa.gov) by Wednesday, **May 6, 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](mailto: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.