**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Derin** **Myers**

*Acting* *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

February 15, 2017

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=copa&service=6)Compensation Related: Basic, Advanced-Counseling, Transportation Expenses, Restitution 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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# 2017 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards – Nominations Are Due Friday, February 24th!

A Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is the most prestigious award that Pennsylvania gives to a victim service professional or program.  The award may be presented to one program and up to seven individuals who have made notable contributions to the program for which they work, the community they serve, or the field of victim services.

The 2017 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards will be presented at the 2017 Pathways for Victim Services Conference, which will be held from May 8-10, 2017, at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The selection process for recipients of the Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is highly competitive.  Therefore, to be considered, each nomination must meet the criteria and eligibility exactly as outlined.  Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Governor%27s-Victim-Service-Pathfinder-Awards.aspx) to view photos and accomplishments of past Governor’s Victim Services Pathfinder Award Recipients.

**Submitting a Nomination:**

Pathfinder nominations will be performed via an electronic submission process. Applications can be submitted by clicking [here](https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/login.asp?EventKey=VNNRNHEG).  **Nominations must be submitted by 11:59pm Friday, February 24, 2017**. Please submit any questions by 3:00pm Thursday, February 23, 2017. We encourage you to review the following documents on criteria and eligibility:

[Nomination Packet Requirements (PDF)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Nomination%20Packet%20Requirements%20revised%202016.pdf)

[Criteria and Eligibility for Award Categories (PDF)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Criteria%20and%20eligibility%20Revised%20feb%202016.pdf)

[Nomination Packet Checklist (PDF)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Nomination%20Packet%20Checklist%20Revised%20Feb%202016.pdf)

Here are some things to keep in mind when submitting a nomination for the 2017 Pathfinder Awards:

* The narrative section should be **based on the criteria and eligibility listed for the relevant award category.  There is a limit of 600 words in this section on the submission site.**
* **The narrative cannot be used as a letter of support.**
* The nominator **cannot** write a letter of support.  The letters of support must be **separate and unique to each other.**
* **ALSO** – Please keep in mind that the letters of support should not have the same information as the narrative.

Need Assistance?

For questions regarding the nominations, contact Heather Hewitt at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov), or 717-265-8730.

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# 4th Annual Victims’ Rights Conference

Crime Victim Center is hosting our 2017 "Crime Victims' Rights Conference: Strength; Resilience; Justice" on Friday, April 28th, from 9am to 4:15pm, at the Bayfront Sheraton in Erie, PA. Seating is limited to the first 75 people to register.

This conference will host a range of amazing speakers in three breakout sessions, in addition to a speaking program during lunch.

Event Location:   
**Bayfront Sheraton**

55 W Bay Rd,

Erie, PA 16507

For more information or to register, please click [here](http://www.cvcerie.org/education/2017-crime-victims-rights-conference/).

*Application has been made for continuing education credits for Nursing Home Administrator and Activity Professionals as well as Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.*

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# New Victim Service Program Standards

Effective January 1, 2017, some additions and changes have been made to PCCD’s Standards for Victim Service Programs. These Standards have been included in the electronic version of PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards located on PCCD’s. **View the standards** [**here**](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Consolidated%20Victim%20Service%20Program%20Standards%201-1-2017.pdf).

All programs receiving VOCA funding must meet standards established by the relevant oversight organizations, i.e., Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), and National Children's Alliance (NCA). With the introduction of the new Federal VOCA reporting requirements and the identification of VOCA priority areas for the competitive solicitation, VSAC identified a need to analyze existing standards and identify those services and/or activities provided to victims that may not be currently covered by the existing program standards of the relevant oversight organization(s).

VSAC delegated the task of analyzing the existing standards and identifying services and/or activities not currently covered to its Services and Standards Subcommittee. VSAC charged the Services and Standards Subcommittee to develop new standards to cover the newly indentified services and activities as well as identify existing standards that may require amendment.

As a result of the Services and Standards Subcommittee work thus far, a new standard regarding Forensic Interviewing and revisions to the existing standard for Counseling/Supportive Counseling/Therapy were recently approved by VSAC and the Commission in December 2016.

The Forensic Interview Standard applies only to Associate CAC members. The accredited CAC’s abide by the NCA Standard for Forensic Interviews. The Counseling/Supportive Counseling/Therapy Standard was amended to clarify that therapy is delivered by a licensed therapist or someone who is actively working towards their license under the supervision of a licensed therapist, and who has appropriate master’s level educational and experiential knowledge.

The next standard anticipated to be completed is the Civil Legal Services Standard. PCCD will continue to inform and update as new standards are developed and approved by VSAC and the Commission. For questions, you may contact Kathy Buckley at [kabuckley@pa.gov](mailto:kabuckley@pa.gov) or at (717)-265-8724.

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# Free Training Opportunities

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) has several high caliber, archived webinars available without charge:

* Adult Sex Offenders – What You Need to Know
* Digital Evidence: Successfully Identifying and Acquiring Electronic Evidence to Combat the CSI Effect
* Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits: Changing What We Know About Rape
* Neurobiology of Sexual Assault Webinar Series
* Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview: A Trauma Informed Experience

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To view any of the above recordings, please click [here](http://www.evawintl.org/WebinarArchive.aspx). Once registered, EVAWI will email you a password to access the selected training.

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# Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) – Request for Proposals

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) will be accepting Requests for Proposals (RFP) to provide services related to sexual violence in communities throughout Pennsylvania. This competitive application is for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 with yearly renewals through Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The RFP will be made available February 3, 2017 on the PCAR website ([www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org)). All RFPs must be submitted electronically. Organizations wishing to apply will have until March 10, 2017 to submit an application to PCAR.

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# Funding Opportunity: OVW FY2017 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, And Stalking Program

The United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for the Fiscal Year 2017 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program. This program furthers the Department’s mission by supporting projects designed to address and prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in rural jurisdictions.

Applications Due: February 23, 2017

Please click [OVW-2017-11908](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=291054) for the full solicitation.

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# PDAI Victim Services Training News

**Registration is now open for the following one-day training:**

**Supporting Victims of Elder Abuse**

March 16, 2017

Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office   
Ray Harley Training Room

3 South Penn Square Philadelphia, PA

Registration for this training will begin at 8:30 and the training will be conducted from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Registration is $25.00 and you can register [here](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-home/).

**April Foundational Academy**

April 19-21, 2017

*The registration for this training is now closed. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please email Donna R. Hull at* [*donna@dhullconsulting.com*](mailto:donna@dhullconsulting.com)*.*

* *For those who have already registered, the online independent study component is available*[*here*](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-pa-savin/)*.*

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# Compensation Corner - Verification

Once a claim has been accepted (met the basic eligibility requirements), staff initiates the **verification** **process.** The Program is required by law to investigate each claim to verify the accuracy of the claim, to ensure that all requirements of the law are met and to make a determination as to whether the claim should be paid and the amount that should be awarded.

Depending on the type of claim and the documentation that was submitted with the claim, the assigned staff member will determine what entities need to be contacted for further information and verification. If the requested information is not received within 30 days from the initial request, the Program will make a second request for the requested information. A letter is sent to the claimant and to the victim service program notifying them of the Program’s attempts to obtain the required information.

If a victim is applying for multiple benefits, such as medical expenses and loss of earnings, however verification is received only for the medical expenses, VCAP may pay the medical expenses and consider the lost earnings once the required documentation is received.

If there is a known offender, the Program will verify the status of court proceedings and restitution.

Verification requests are most commonly sent to the following:

***Police Departments*** – The program requires a police report (unless a PFA was filed) to determine:

* A preponderance of evidence exists to determine an eligible crime was committed.
* The crime was reported within 72 hours.
* The victim did not engage in conduct that caused the injury.
* The victim did not initiate, provoke or prolong the incident.
* The victim cooperated with the investigation and prosecution.

***Medical/Public Assistance*** – The Program may access the Medical Assistance/Public Assistance office database to determine whether the victim was/is eligible for benefits (Medical, Cash, or Food Stamps).

***Hospitals*** – The Program may contact a hospital to verify charges or, when necessary, to request medical records to verify that services directly relate to crime.

***Doctors*** – The Program may contact a doctor to verify charges, verify that services relate directly to crime, and types of supplies or medications prescribed as a result of the crime. If the victim is requesting loss of earnings, VCAP requires the doctor complete the verification form related to the victim’s disability period. If the victim sought mental health, physical therapy, or chiropractic services, a treatment form is attached for the doctor or licensed professional to certify what percentage of the treatment is directly related to the crime.

***Dentists*** – The Program may contact dentists to verify the charges, the percentage of services that directly relate to the crime, any medications or supplies prescribed, specific teeth requiring treatment, and dental records if necessary. VCAP encourages when dental work needs to be done that prior to any major dental work, contact is made with VCAP along with a dental plan so that VCAP can make a preliminary determination on whether the claim may or may not be paid and the dental services being performed are crime related.

***Funeral Homes*** – The Program will send a verification form to the funeral home to verify payments made, who the payments were made by, and balance due.

***Employers*** – Employers are requested to complete the verification form indicating the dates the victim/claimant lost time from work, regularly scheduled day/weekly hours, and any reimbursements received, i.e., sick, vacation or disability pay.

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# ****Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings****

The following training will be held on February 16, 2017.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803013&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803013&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 21, 2017.

* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803076&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803076&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 23, 2017.

* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803210&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803210&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 2, 2017.

* ”Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803284&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803284&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 7, 2017.

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803394&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803394&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 9, 2017.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803436&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803436&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 14, 2017.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803450&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803450&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on March 22, 2017.

* Restitution Basics - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989675745&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989675745&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803516&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803516&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Loss of Support Clinic - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803539&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803539&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 28, 2017.

* Transportation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803596&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803596&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on April 5, 2017.

* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803673&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803673&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803664&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803664&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following DAVE trainings will be held in 2017:

* 4/13/17 DAVE Training - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm. Click [here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=td9c1d44e1d75a3f47729076acc1f68f5) to register.

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

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# Accomplishments Of The Office On Violence Against Women

Between 2009 and 2017, the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) made 6,252 awards totaling more than $3.4 billion. This investment in communities across the nation funds services for victims, the justice system’s response to crimes of domestic and sexual violence, and many other efforts to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. OVW also provided expert assistance to legislators leading up to the passage of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization. Please click [here](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/929506/download) to read more.

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# U.S. Adult Incarceration Rate Declines 13% In 8 Years

From a peak of 1 in 100 in 2007-08, the U.S. incarceration rate has dropped back to 1 in 115 adults, according to an analysis of federal Bureau of Justice Statistics data conducted by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The incarceration rate, which includes offenders in state and federal prisons and local jails, fell 13 percent from 2007 to 2015, a level not seen since 1998. However, it is still more than three times higher than it was for most of the 20th century. In addition, the adult community supervision rate, which comprises those under the supervision of federal, state, and local probation or parole officers, declined 17 percent, from 1 in 45 to 1 in 53, during that same eight-year span. Please click [here](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2017/01/12/us-adult-incarceration-rate-declines-13-percent-in-8-years) to read more.

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# Responding to Trauma Among Young Men of Color

Young men of color experience violence at staggering rates. Black and Latino males are disproportionately victims of violence, assault, and childhood or sexual abuse. This national trend is reflected locally: 84% of young men of color surveyed in a 2012 needs assessment in Crown Heights reported at least one personal experience of violence in the last year. Many young men may also be hesitant or afraid to interact with system providers – not only victim services staff, but even staff at hospitals where they may be treated after a violent incident – because actors in the criminal justice, healthcare, and social service systems often assume young Black men are perpetrators, not victims. As our study of young men in Crown Heights indicated, “There is little mystery about why Black men who are the victims of violence do not seek help from professionals: it is because they are more often seen as perpetrators of violence than victims, and are treated as such by police, hospital personnel and other service providers.” Please click [here](http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/RespondingToTraumaAmongYoungMenOfColor_Revised.pdf) to read more.

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# ****Scholarships Available For 2017 National Victim Service Conferences****

The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for scholarships to attend eligible national victim service conferences. This funding is made available through a grant awarded to PDAI by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the purpose of subsidizing the costs associated with attending these training conferences. These costs may include registration fees, per diem (for food), and reasonable transportation and lodging expenses. The scholarships are only available to victim service professionals to attend any national conference focused on victim service training. To qualify, the applicant’s entire job focus must be on providing support, information, and assistance to victims. Any eligible conference must be completed within the 2017 calendar year.  Only one person per agency can receive a scholarship and only after providing a sufficient justification of need. Recipients are selected based upon the information provided in the application, the number of scholarships previously awarded, and remaining available funding. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2017%20PCCD%20Scholarship%20Application.docx) for the Scholarship Application.

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# Save The Date: Crime Victims’ Rights Rally

When: April 3, 2017 at 11 a.m.

Where: Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, PA

*Please click* [*here*](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2017%20Crime%20Victims%20Rally%20Save%20the%20Date.pdf) *to view or print the Save the Date.*

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# Save The Date: The 14th Pathways For Victim Services Conference

OVS is pleased to announce the dates of the next Pathways for Victim Services Conference in 2017. The conference will be held in the spring of 2017 at the Hershey Lodge and Conference Center in Hershey, PA.

**Please mark your calendars for the following dates:**

Monday, May 8, 2017

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

OVS is very excited about the upcoming Pathways Conference and we look forward to seeing you there! For additional information, please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-pathways-for-victim-services-conference/event-summary-05b8d26fcfba40e784c80e6a28817877.aspx).

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# Save The Date: Second Annual Bucks, Montgomery, And Philadelphia County Regional Forensic Nursing Conference

Friday, May 12th, 2017

Abington Jefferson Health

1200 Old York Road

Abington, PA 19001

8:00am – 5:00pm

*Please click* [*here*](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Save%20the%20Date%202017.pdf) *to view or print the Save the Date*

**Topics Include**

Cultural and medical considerations for transgender individuals during a medical-forensic exam

Courtroom testimony techniques

Trends in forensic serology and DNA technology

Campus sexual assault

Sexual Assault: The police Investigation Perspective

Role of the forensic nurse coroner

Best practices in SANE case review and peer review

**Speakers Include**

* Dr. Rachel Levine, Physician General of Pennsylvania and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine
* Ron Smith, forensic identification and investigation specialist
* Pennsylvania State Police Crime Lab
* Jonathan Kassa, Director of Higher Education for Allied Universal
* Detective Dave Bonaquisti, Warminster Police Department, Bucks County, PA
* Pamela Gay, RN, York County, PA Coroner
* Jana French, Nursing Director of Washington DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program and International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Board Member

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

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# Save The Date: KCIT Basic Crisis Response Training

**June 19-22, 2017**

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson

State College, PA

Training Fee: $250 (*Fee includes hotel accommodations, training materials, breakfast and lunch each day*)

Application Deadline: May 12, 2017

Please click [here](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eczzpl4g2a84648b&llr=6nqn8gdab) to register and for more information.

This training is sponsored by the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team. KCIT provides crisis intervention services to victims of crime and their communities in the aftermath of a traumatic event in Pennsylvania.

This 25 hour course trains qualified individuals to work as a team with the goal of helping people in crisis cope with the physical, emotional, and behavioral reactions to trauma in the aftermath of a community crisis.

Please note: Completion of this application does not secure a seat in the training. You will be notified if you have been selected for this training course. All applicants will be notified by May 19, 2017 if they were accepted into the training. Decisions are based on several factors.

For more information or questions please contact: Michelle Kern, KCIT Coordinator at 215-343-6543, or by email at [michelle@novabucks.org](mailto:michelle@novabucks.org)

* *This training has been approved for 25 PCCD training hours.*
* *This training has applied for approval by the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors for 25 CEUs.*
* *Funding for this project is made available in part through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).*

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Heather Hewitt at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov) by February 22, 2017.

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 Heather Hewitt at (717) 265-8730 or via email at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov).

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:** [@PaCrimmCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)