

**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

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OVS Newsletter

February 23, 2022

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# VCAP Quarterly Discussions

VCAP will be holding quarterly discussions for those who file VCAP claims.  Our first virtual meeting will be on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 10:00-11:30 am.  For training tracking purposes, all those attending should register.  If you are interested in attending this discussion, please complete the registration form by Friday, March 18, 2022.  A link to the Microsoft Teams meeting will be sent on Monday, March 28, 2022.  If you have any topics you would like to discuss, please include them on the registration form.  We will do our best to cover any suggested topics.

Please click [here](https://forms.office.com/g/gLs7Y5qntw) to register.

Registration closes Friday, March 18, 2022.

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# VCAP Vacancy in Philadelphia County

The Office of Victim Services, Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program currently has a vacancy for a Criminal Justice System Specialist.  This position will be located in Philadelphia and will encompass 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 position is currently posted thru 3/7/2022.  More information on this position can be found at [Criminal Justice System Specialist 1 | Job Details tab | Career Pages (governmentjobs.com)](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau/jobs/3423965/criminal-justice-system-specialist-1?keywords=Criminal%20Justice%20System%20Specialist-1%20&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs)

As a Claim Specialist, you will be responsible for:  
  
Claim Processing - Responsible for the claim investigation, determination, disposition, and reimbursement preparation for victims/claimants.    
  
Advocacy - Interacting with victims and assisting to ensure their rights and services as provided by law, and consistent with victim services standards and procedures.  
  
Technical Assistance - Serve as the liaison between claim specialists and service care providers, employers, funeral homes, police departments and other allied professionals in Philadelphia County.  
  
If this type of work interests you, apply today!

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# Statement by President Biden on the Introduction of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022

Please click [here](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/09/statement-by-president-biden-on-the-introduction-of-the-violence-against-women-act-reauthorization-act-of-2022/) to read President Biden’s statement about the Introduction of the *Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022*.

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# Congress Ok’s Bill Allowing Sex Harassment Victims to Sue

Congress approved legislation guaranteeing that people who experience sexual harassment at work can seek recourse in the courts, a milestone for the #MeToo movement that prompted a reckoning on the way sexual misconduct claims are handled, the Associated Press reports.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/congress-ok-s-bill-allowing-sex-harassment-victims-to-sue) to read.

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# Study Links Gun Stores, Shootings in Disadvantaged Areas

Rutgers University found evidence that, in disadvantaged neighborhoods, shootings tend to occur closer to gun stores, The Trace reports. The study in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, comes amid a federal push to crack down on problem gun dealers.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/study-links-gun-stores-shootings-in-disadvantaged-areas) to read.

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# Study Contests Idea Media Coverage of Mass Shootings Inspires More

High-profile mass shootings can dominate the news, and critics have charged that wall-to-wall media coverage of these events can inspire more mass violence. In a new study published in Significance, five researchers led by criminologist James Alan Fox, principal of a mass shootings database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Fox' Northeastern University, tested that theory, The Trace reports.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/study-contests-idea-media-coverage-of-mass-shootings-inspires-more) to read.

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# Decline in Stalking Before Pandemic Attributed to Drop in Tech Incidents

About 3.4 million U.S. residents 16 or older were victims of stalking in 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics reports. That was a statistically significant decrease from 2016 (that was largely driven by a decline in stalking that involved technology only, declining from 1.3 million victims in 2016 to 1.1 million in 2019.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/decline-in-stalking-before-pandemic-attributed-to-drop-in-tech-incidents) to read.

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# How Cities Are Fighting Violence with Efforts Going Beyond Policing

With a rise in homicides in more than a dozen major U.S. cities, local leaders are trying to strike a balance between relying on law enforcement and engaging others, such as social workers, to reduce violence in at-risk communities.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/how-cities-are-fighting-violence-with-efforts-going-beyond-policing) to read.

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# Senators Agree on Violence Against Women Law Fixes

Senators announced a bipartisan deal to reauthorize the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) after Democrats dropped an effort to add contentious language related to guns, reports the Wall Street Journal. VAWA was enacted in 1994 to provide funding for prosecutions of domestic violence crimes, shelters and other programs to aid abuse victims. It lapsed in 2019.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/senators-agree-on-violence-against-women-law-fixes) to read.

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# Safety Net’s 2021 Year-In-Review

In 2021, NNEDV’s Safety Net Project stayed busy, expanding partnerships and activities, exploring new strategies for addressing the impact of current and emerging technologies on victims’ safety, privacy, accessibility, and civil rights, and supporting service providers in the field.

Please click [here](https://nnedv.org/latest_update/safety-nets-2021-year-in-review/) to read.

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# Trauma-Informed Guiding Principles for Working With Transition Age Youth: Provider Fact Sheet

From the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NTCSN), the Trauma-Informed Guiding Principles for Working with Transition Age Youth: Provider Fact Sheet offers information for providers supporting transition age youth with trauma-informed guiding principles to inform their work. This fact sheet describes transition age youth and their unique experiences and six trauma-informed guiding principles to better support youth in their journey and recovery.

Please click [here](https://www.nctsn.org/resources/trauma-informed-guiding-principles-for-working-with-transition-age-youth-provider-fact-sheet?utm_source) to read.

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# Runaway & Homeless Youth and Relationship Violence Toolkit

This Toolkit organizes information, resources, tips and tools drawn from the wealth of information gathered when the two service systems were convened through local collaborative projects funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Please click [here](https://rhytoolkit.org/) to read.

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# New Guide Will Help Justice System Deal with Mass Violence Victims

A new guide to help courts deal with mass violence victims has been published by the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center (NMVVRC). The guide is designed to help prosecutors, victim services and mental/ behavioral health providers, and allied professionals plan for high-profile trials with a focus on victims' and survivors' needs, and effective and coordinated strategies to meet them.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/new-guide-will-help-justice-system-deal-with-mass-violence-victims) to read.

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# Taking Action Assisting Victims of Financial Fraud

**Thursday, February 24, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time**

In 2020, there were 2.2 million fraud complaints made to the FTC. This financial loss cost consumers 3.3 billion dollars last year. Anyone can be a victim of financial fraud, and perpetrators of this type of crime can range from the most intimate of people like partners and family members to strangers far away. With the increase of financial fraud, it’s important for service providers, practitioners, and those who do client-facing work, to understand the dynamics of financial fraud and the emotional and often traumatic toll it can have on victims.

Please click [here](https://victimsofcrime.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7IYSkhH6TryhKjtZ7x6oGg) to register.

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# Financial Security for Crime Survivors

**Friday, February 25, 2022 from 11:30am-1:00pm**

Financial abuse occurs in 98% of abusive relationships and is the number one reason victims stay in or return to abusive relationships. We can reduce this abuse by normalizing discussion around this topic, which is why the Pennsylvania Commission for Women is hosting the Financial Security for Crime Survivors webinar.

The webinar will focus on the impact of financial abuse on survivors; financial security for survivors and families; access to victims’ compensation; the importance of pay equity; and resources available to help survivors recover from financial abuse.

Click [here](https://www.facebook.com/events/455385276250881/?active_tab=about) to learn more.

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# Secondary Trauma & Traumatic Stress: Overview, Signs and Symptoms, and How to Mitigate the Effects

**Wednesday, March 2, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST.**

This webinar will focus on the cognitive signs and symptoms of stress and share specialized resiliency tools and coping strategies to help professionals combat traumatic stress and develop personalized tools to help alleviate the effects of trauma.

Please click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fojp.webex.com%2Fmw3300%2Fmywebex%2Fdefault.do%3Fnomenu%3Dtrue%26siteurl%3Dojp%26service%3D6%26rnd%3D0.10786660620960375%26main_url%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fojp.webex.com%252Fec3300%252Feventcenter%252Fprogram%252FprogramDetail.do%253FtheAction%253Ddetail%2526internalProgramTicket%253D4832534b000000051dcd78b919139d93c6f8f3fc92877e65f4e4261dc384a0572fbea0b02a232d47%2526siteurl%253Dojp%2526internalProgramTicketUnList%253D4832534b000000051dcd78b919139d93c6f8f3fc92877e65f4e4261dc384a0572fbea0b02a232d47%2526cProgViewID%253D14859322%2526PRID%253D1be80e459e6fe7f6e41ab96e2c98d0af&data=04%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Cda18771c0cd643a644fd08d9f01eae2e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637804837271460599%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=MbCkLZ2yXBbQY3gJxa576LJ8xgCICQF1pnv1jbJuPsc%3D&reserved=0) to register.

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# The Restitution Advocates Present: A Restitution Refresher & Discussion

|  |
| --- |
| **Virtual via Zoom Meeting** **March 8, 2022 | 9 AM - 11 AM** **PCCD Training Hour Approval: 2** **Registration fee: $0** |
| **Presenters:**   **Amy Smulktis** Restitution & Victim/Witness Training Consultant Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute  **Pam Behr** Restitution Advocate The Office of the Victim Advocate   Join two experienced Restitution Advocates to review the basics of restitution, learn new information, and discuss problems currently plaguing the restitution process. |

Please click [here](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500401&RegType=ATT) to register.

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# Group Crisis Intervention Training

Learn the Group Crisis Intervention Model to respond to community trauma.

*Become KCIT Certified—Join a Statewide Team*

KCIT’s Group Crisis Intervention (GCI) is a secondary response that addresses the gap that exists in-between traditional trauma services offered. After a tragic event, first responders leave and a community may then be left on its own to navigate their path forward. KCIT can address large numbers of people at a time to help a community come together and to start to tell the story of what happened and connect them to necessary resources and services.

During a GCI a group is led by a facilitator through a series of questions using time progression—starting in the past, present, and then future. Questions aim to help participants sort through their experience of the event, sensory impact, reactions, and what they continue to hold as a result of the trauma. The group process assists in restoring connection and the feeling that “I am not alone” in my suffering. It is important to understand that a GCI is not therapy and is a onetime intervention.

**Length**: 12 hours

**Cost**: Provided at no cost!!! Funding made possible by PCCD

**Format**: Offered in four 3-hour sessions

**Dates**: Four Wednesdays

* February 23, 2022
* March 2, 2022
* March 9, 2022
* March 16, 2022

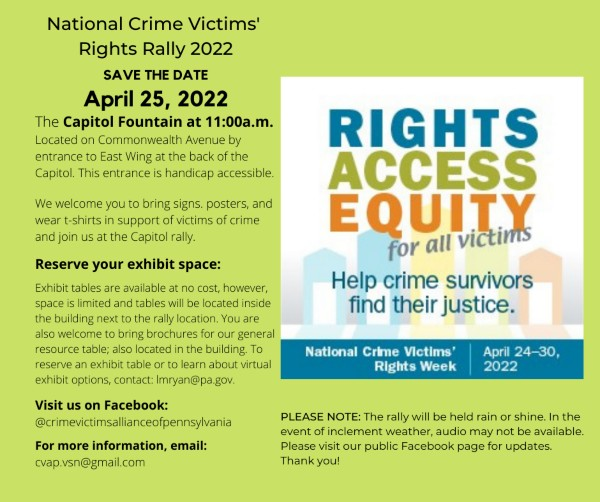
**Time:** 1:00-4:00 PM

*(Must attend all sessions to receive KCIT Certification)*

Please click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIqf-2uqD0sGtbMf9YNcdJtCT-6P51JHQCS) to register

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# CVAP Victims’ Rights Rally



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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on March 1, 2022.

* Medical Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
* Transportation Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on March 9, 2022.

* Loss of Support Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* DAVE – The Victims Compensation Claim System – 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on March 16, 2022.

* Basic Compensation – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on March 22, 2022.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses 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 March 30, 2022.

* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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.

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

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# Arise – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://ariselc.org/career) to view current opportunities.

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# Women’s Resources Of Monroe County, Inc – Employment

Please click [here](https://www.wrmonroe.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities/) to view current opportunities.

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# NOVA – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://novabucks.org/) to view current opportunities.

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# Adams County – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.adamscounty.us%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7C4093edd2dc454f75d1b408d9ebfc20b2%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637800290688897259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=fmimjnvq%2BWpfp1tYi4j%2BW1m9%2Fq3RxOlGXyI5nFIXdi8%3D&reserved=0) to view current opportunities.

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# Lancaster County District Attorney Office – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flcjob1.co.lancaster.pa.us%3A8046%2Fpsc%2Fcareer3%2FEMPLOYEE%2FHRMS%2Fc%2FHRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL%3FPage%3DHRS_APP_SCHJOB_FL%26Action%3DU&data=04%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Cd5055bd03c9240e5231e08d9e663933c%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637794137620451715%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=kJVBOqjujQj%2Be88VXclkLkccvFGVH2xYghoRf1RZQrY%3D&reserved=0) to view current opportunities.

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **March 9, 2022**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@pa.gov)  by Wednesday, **March 2, 2022**.

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 Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@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.