**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Derin** **Myers**

*Acting* *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

April 25, 2018

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw3200/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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# New Victim Service Program Standards

The Services and Standards Subcommittee of the Victims’ Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) has been tasked with developing standards to cover newly identified services and activities under VOCA.  The standards for [In-Home Care for Adults and Children](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/In%20Home%20Care%20for%20Adults%20and%20Children%204.18.18.pdf), [Emergency Housing for Elderly or Disabled Adults](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Emergency%20Housing%20for%20Elderly%20or%20Disabled%20Adults%204.18.18.pdf), and [Therapy](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/FINAL%20Therapy%20Standard%204.19.18.pdf) were recently approved by VSAC. These standards have been added to the electronic version of PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards located on PCCD’s website.

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# Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards – Only 9 Days Left To Nominate!

Submissions are now being accepted for the 2018 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards!

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 awards process is slightly different on non-conference years. Normally, the awards would be presented at the Pathways Conference; however, since the conference will not be held this year, the awards will be presented at an event of the nominator and winner’s preference. This will provide an opportunity to have the award winners recognized in their own community where their elected officials, board members, family, friends, and peers can easily attend. The award presentations may be held anytime. It could be held during a local Victims’ Rights Week Event, at an annual board meeting, a special event, a County Commissioners meeting, or a presentation at the office. The nominator is responsible for coordinating the event and notifying PCCD of the date and location. A PCCD staff member or a Victims’ Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) member will attend the event to present the award to the recipient.

The selection process for recipients of the Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is highly competitive. To be considered, each nomination must meet the criteria and eligibility exactly as outlined. In preparation of your nomination, we encourage you to review the following documents on criteria and eligibility:

* [Nomination Packet Requirements](file:///O%3A/OVS/Pathways/2018%20Pathfinder%20Awards/Nomination%20Packet%20Requirements%20%282018%29.doc)
* [Criteria and Eligibility for Award Categories](file:///O%3A/OVS/Pathways/2018%20Pathfinder%20Awards/Pathfinders%20Awards%20Information%202018%20%283.12.18%29.docx)

[Submit your nomination](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.conferenceabstracts.com%2Fcfp2%2Flogin.asp%3FEventKey%3DFMDGMAAQ&data=02%7C01%7Chhewitt%40pa.gov%7Ceb2266ba09bd4325519808d588df43a8%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C1%7C0%7C636565414852980632&sdata=L%2FALo23zD9k66c%2BLlnREx5s6U6%2BdQSifPSCRRlFo2zk%3D&reserved=0) today!

For questions regarding the nominations, please contact Heather Hewitt at hhewitt@pa.gov or 717-265-8730.

**The nomination period closes on Friday, May 4th at 11:59 p.m.**

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# OVS Training For New VOCA Grantees

The Office of Victims’ Services will be offering an Introductory training to new VOCA grantees. Topics to be discussed include PCCD Standards, Policies & Procedures, VOCA Reporting Requirements, Program Monitoring, Civil Rights, Fiscal, ETO, and Available Resources. Three regional trainings have been scheduled.

May 10, 2018 – Philadelphia, Temple University, Office of Community Relations

May 21, 2018 – Harrisburg, PCCD

To register for this training, please contact Keith Lightner at 717-265-8737.

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# ATTENTION VOJO PROGRAMS - VOJO LAPSING FUNDS – PLEASE DON’T FORGET TO USE YOUR VOJO FUNDING BY DUE DATE OF JUNE 30, 2018!!!

Recipients of 2017 VOJO (VJ) and/or 2017 JRI (JV) funds, denoted on your Award Letter as:

2017 VJ Award Amount      $ xx.xx

2017 VJ Project Period        7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018

                        And/Or

2017 JV Award Amount       $ xx.xx

2017 JV Project Period         7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018

**This is a reminder that *VOJO funds not expended or obligated from these funding sources by June 30, 2018 will lapse.***

**Any outstanding obligations as of 6/30/2018 should be reported in the Outstanding Subgrantee Obligations column on the fiscal report for the period ending 6/30/2018.**

**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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# OVC Opioid Grant

We have been informed that OVC will be offering a grant in the very near future to assist with victims of the opioid crisis. The purpose of the solicitation is to support a gap in victim services related to the opioid crisis to ensure that victims, particularly children and families receive appropriate services. OVC anticipates awarding more than 20 grants up to $500,000 and one grant up to $1 M to provide technical assistance and training to support victim service programs in implementing their programs. Please see the links for more details on the upcoming funding announcements.

<https://www.grantsnet.justice.gov/programplan/html/Item.htm?ForecasterId=14324>

<https://www.grantsnet.justice.gov/programplan/html/Item.htm?ForecasterId=14325>

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# Anticipated STOP Formula Grant Solicitations Coming April 2018!

Staff from the Office of Victims’ Services are preparing to release three competitive solicitations for STOP Formula Grant Funding in April 2018. The STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program is a grant program under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that supports communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. It promotes a multidisciplinary approach to improve the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems’ response to these crimes and to enhance investigation and prosecution of offenders as well as advocacy and services available to victims.

These three solicitations fit within the current goals and objectives outlined in Pennsylvania’s STOP Implementation Plan as approved by the Office on Violence Against Women. You may view the Implementation Plan [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/finaldraftplan%204.24.17.pdf).

**Statewide STOP Competitive Solicitation**

The first solicitation is the regular STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Competitive Solicitation. A STOP program must be supported by team members from law enforcement, prosecution and victim service programs who agree to work together on goals and objectives aimed at reducing violence against women. This competitive solicitation will be open to all Pennsylvania counties. The project period will be for **TWO** years, and programs may request funding up to $125,000 per year. PCCD anticipates funding up to 30 counties under this announcement. Counties will be required to have established STOP Coordinating Teams, be working towards or have established response protocols for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and propose projects that fall within one or more of the 10 Federal Purpose Areas outlined in Pennsylvania’s Implementation Plan. Special scoring incentive will be provided for those applicants who strive to reach underserved, culturally specific populations and actively engage with local cultural organizations. There is a federal mandate in the award that at least ten percent of all STOP funded projects serve these populations.

**STOP Rural Project Capacity Building Solicitation**

Pennsylvania is a geographically diverse state, with over a quarter of its population residing in areas that are considered “rural.” The federal guidelines governing STOP require states to equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of varying geographic size. While the STOP Formula Grant Program has been implemented in Pennsylvania for over two decades, some rural counties in the state have never been able to secure a STOP grant.

The STOP Project Rural Capacity Building Solicitation will be open to those counties that meet the definition of rural, as defined by the Pennsylvania legislature, and who 1) have not had STOP Formula Grant Funding ever before or 2) Have not had STOP funding since 2010, when the funding announcements initiated a competitive process.

Under the rural solicitation, PCCD expects to fund up to four rural counties that have lacked the capacity to form a full cross-system collaboration which is currently required by the general STOP funding solicitations. Rural counties who can demonstrate a need and the ability to improve their systemic response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or dating violence are eligible to apply for these grants. Successful applicants under the STOP Rural Solicitation must agree to participate in the following:

* Technical Assistance facilitated through PCCD for STOP collaborative team formation, policy and procedure development and response protocol development;
* Regional quarterly conference calls with other local STOP funded projects to discuss, emerging trends, initiatives and opportunities for greater collaboration.

The selected rural grantees who can meet the goals and objectives specified in the proposed project timeline during this two-year capacity building project period, will automatically become part of the next four-year STOP Formula Grant Project Cycle.

**Model Human Trafficking Pilot Project**

PCCD currently provides STOP and federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to over 30 different projects that indicate that they provide services to victims of human trafficking. This is in addition to anti-trafficking efforts funded by alternate sources.

Through this competitive solicitation, PCCD will select one jurisdiction in the state to develop a model community-wide, collaborative response to sex trafficking of youth (ages 11-17) and adults. This solicitation will call for the development of a multi-tiered collaborative team to include 1) a leadership team responsible for the project and model protocol development; 2) a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee to set goals and objectives, oversee policy and engage in collaborative problem solving; and a workgroup of direct service providers who will provide feedback on the feasibility of proposals and policies/protocols developed by the Steering Committee and assist in the implementation/ testing process .

The successful applicant under this solicitation must agree to participate in quarterly conference calls facilitated by PCCD and an advisory team of state and national experts. The team will monitor the progress of the pilot program and assist in the development of model protocols, standards and cross training initiatives.

At the end of this project, PCCD anticipates that the applicant will have developed model response protocols for victims of sex trafficking; a set of guidelines, standards, and best practices for operation of a model anti-human trafficking program. The trainings and tools developed will be shared with all PCCD funded human trafficking programs.

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# Technology Resources

TechSoup provides a discounted online resource for technology solutions. This includes discounted hardware and software, consultants, and a blog to help identify solution based resources. Below is a list of the catalog provided:

* [Accounting](https://www.techsoup.org/accounting)
* [Antivirus](https://www.techsoup.org/security)
* [Business and Technology Planning](https://www.techsoup.org/business-and-technology-planning)
* [Cloud Computing](https://www.techsoup.org/cloud-computing)
* [Communications](https://www.techsoup.org/communications)
* [Computers and Electronics](https://www.techsoup.org/computers-and-electronics)
* [Databases and Analytics](https://www.techsoup.org/databases-and-analytics)
* [Donor and Grants Management](https://www.techsoup.org/donor-and-grants-management)
* [Fundraising](https://www.techsoup.org/fundraising)
* [Green Technology](https://www.techsoup.org/green-technology)
* [Human Resources](https://www.techsoup.org/human-resources)
* [IT Support and Services](https://www.techsoup.org/it-services)
* [Mobile](https://www.techsoup.org/mobile)
* [Operating Systems](https://www.techsoup.org/operating-systems)
* [Phone Service](https://www.techsoup.org/phone-service)
* [Security](https://www.techsoup.org/security)
* [Servers and Networks](https://www.techsoup.org/servers-and-networks)
* [Telecommuting](https://www.techsoup.org/telecommuting)
* [Training and Education](https://www.techsoup.org/training-and-education)
* [Web and Graphic Design](https://www.techsoup.org/web-and-graphic-design)
* [Website Management](https://www.techsoup.org/website-management)

For more information, please click [here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.techsoup.org%2F%3Fgclid%3DCjwKCAjwq_vWBRACEiwAEReprLWDIu0JjAjFvKkDvSCaqr_Pzu6dLn20ij1sAPMovouL5TTYWMn-LxoCYZoQAvD_BwE&data=02%7C01%7Cvmcmahon%40pa.gov%7C02bc459c2f84461f492508d5aa110ca5%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C1%7C1%7C636601912564368495&sdata=sl%2FJr1i1g9KYeGGFjpkCeuvncNR9d5NdKSj40wEvwcE%3D&reserved=0).

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# Is Someone You Know Missing?

The Pennsylvania State Police, in conjunction with the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office and NamUs, The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, invite you to an event in an effort to help us ID The Missing & Bring Them Home. The event is free and open to the public. Family, friends, communities, and organizations working to locate Pennsylvania's Missing are welcome. Come out to meet other Pennsylvania families and friends who are coping with the disappearance of a loved one. Families should preregister to ensure that their loved ones are commemorated in the vigil & slideshow.

May 31, 2018

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wilkes University Student Center

84 West South St.

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Bring: (as many of the below as you can)

* 2 Biological Relatives (male & female) of your Missing Loved One
* Police Reports
* X-rays – Dental & Body
* Doctor & Dentist Information
* Photographs
* Any Other Identifying Documents

For more information and to register, please contact PSP Corporal Shawn Williams at shawwillia@pa.gov, Megan Stone with Luzerne County DA’s Office at megan.stone@luzernecounty.org, or Amy Dobbs with NamUs at amy.dobbs@unthsc.edu.

Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/PSP%20MP%20Day%20Event%20Flyer.pdf) to view the flyer for this event.

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# KCIT Basic Crisis Response Training

June 18-21, 2018

County Inn & Suites by Carlson

State College, PA.

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

Training Fee: $250

*Fee includes hotel accommodations, training materials, breakfast and lunch each day.*

**Application Deadline: May 26, 2018**

Please click [here](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eerb9qw8687d6e80&oseq=&c=&ch=) for more information.

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

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# Register Now: TF-CBT Therapist Retreat & Advanced Training

The Penn State EPISCenter is excited to announce the TF-CBT Therapist Retreat and Training, which will be held May 17 & 18, 2018 in Mechanicsburg, PA. This event is designed specifically for TF-CBT therapists in Pennsylvania and will be an opportunity for networking, support, and expanding model-specific knowledge.

Therapists have the option of registering for one or both days ($50/day).

**May 17: Mindfulness, Emotional Awareness, and Self-care for Trauma Therapists,** led by Sebrina Doyle of Penn State's Prevention Research Center.

**May 18: Advanced TF-CBT Training,** with Dr. Anthony Mannarino, TF-CBT developer. (Note: Only those who attended the 2-day training at least 6 months ago and have completed or are currently in consultation are eligible for the Advanced Training.)

Please visit [**Event Information & Registration**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.episcenter.psu.edu%2FETI_Home%2FEBP%2FTFCBT5_17_and_18&data=02%7C01%7Cccosgrove%40pa.gov%7C32ecc0c8ae604e8de77e08d598c05e29%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C1%7C0%7C636582874340681452&sdata=AtVYMGWya5rynMdaLNR50YXRlapqZY75ME%2F9XRRotpw%3D&reserved=0)for more information and registration instructions. **Registration will close on May 1st, but space is limited so please register early if you wish to attend.**

*NASW-PA is a co-sponsor of this training. Up to 12 CEs (6 per day) will be awarded. NASW has been designated as a pre-approved provider of professional continuing education for Social Workers (Section 47.36), Marriage and Family Therapist (Section 48.36) and Professional Counselors (Section 49.36) by the PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors. (There is a separate fee for CEs - $15 for NASW members, $25 for non-members.)*

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# New VOCA Grantees: PCCD Approved CLE Training

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. has scheduled the 2018 PLAN VOCA Grantee training for May 23 & 24, 2018 at the Hilton Harrisburg.  Please mark your calendars.

This training will fulfill the PCCD 10-hour CLE annual training requirement for VOCA funded legal staff and is also relevant for any family law practitioners. It will be CLE eligible and there will be no charge.

The following is just a preview of the sessions that will be offered at the 2018 VOCA Grantee Training. Once the agenda and presenters have been finalized we will send out the full agenda.

* VOCA Grantee Restrictions
* Current Developments in PFA Law/Strangulation Bill/Current Caselaw
* Trauma Informed Advocacy
* PFAs and PSVI/ Stalking
* Custody/Divorce and Children’s Advocacy Centers
* Immigration & Human Trafficking/Language Access and Being Culturally Informed
* Working with Law Enforcement and District Attorney’s Offices/Victim Impact Statements
* Unique Features of Representing Elderly Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Power of Attorney
* Victims of Crime Compensation/ Resources and Legal Rights
* Effectively Getting Child(ren) Through Courtroom Testimony
* Counseling the Client as a Whole/Strategies Regarding PFA Cases and Related Relief Including Retaining Utility Services, Public Benefits and Special Rights for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

We will be offering 11 Continuing Education Credits, two of which will be Ethics credits for both full days of training.  Attendance is free.  The event is open to all VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) recipients who assist in providing legal services to victims of crime.

*If you are interested in participating in the training and receiving 10 hours of free CLE credits, you can register at:* [*Registration VOCA Grantee Training 2018*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F2018-VOCA-Training&data=02%7C01%7Cvmcmahon%40pa.gov%7C2c5c9d1e95204e9d80ab08d58a8b7ef5%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C1%7C1%7C636567254109060359&sdata=ebN5kP7SLlufi2YJfQNpODIroawIDQ5l6x7H%2Fne9PZk%3D&reserved=0)

For additional information on this training, please contact Kelly Bock Yeckley at kbockyeckley@palegalaid.net or at 717.236.9486 x 201.

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# ****FY 2018 National SAKI Solicitation Released****

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applications for funding to address the issue and impact of unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) at law enforcement agencies. This program furthers the Department’s mission by improving: 1) state and local jurisdictions’ capacities to respond to violent crime; and 2) the functioning of the criminal justice system, including the investigation and prosecution of cases related to SAKs’ evidence and the collection of lawfully owed DNA.

If you have any questions about the FY 2018 SAKI solicitation, please contact Angela Williamson, BJA Senior Policy Advisor, at Angela.Williamson@usdoj.gov or (202) 307-5831.

**Applications are due April 30, 2018.**

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# PCCD: Two New Trainings Available!

Two new trainings are available on the Pennsylvania Victim Services Training web site!

**ACT203: Advocating for the Victim**

This training provides general guiding principles of what an advocate needs to do to provide competent advocacy for victims. The session focuses on what is needed when advocating for the victim, why advocacy is important, and examples of what advocacy looks like.

**CUL101: Racial/Ethnic Considerations for a Changing PA**

This module will discuss the influence of race and ethnicity on how services are provided to victims of crime. As the diversity of the state continues to grow, it is important that victim advocates have knowledge of effective practices in communicating and working with increasingly diverse client sets.

How to Access the Training

If you are receiving this email, then you are already registered for the PVST! Log in to [https://pavictimservicestraining.org](https://pavictimservicestraining.org/) using your email address as your user name to access this new training. If others at your organization would like to register for the training system, the registration token is 7223.

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

The following trainings will be held on May 1, 2018

Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609123693768067) to register.

Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609205211114889) to register.

The following trainings will be held on May 9, 2018

 Loss of Support Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609339333422790) to register.

 Transportation Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609396440968912) to register.

The following trainings will be held on May 17, 2018

Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609464590020308) to register.

Counseling Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609522441006812) to register.

The following trainings will be held on May 21, 2018

Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609609311334118) to register.

”Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?siteurl=copa&formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&confId=88609544428596959) to register.

DAVE WebEx trainings

* 6/28/2018 at 1:00 p.m. [Click here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcopa.webex.com%2Fcopa%2Fk2%2Fj.php%3FMTID%3Dta7e2da0e346e56da0299a270258de53d&data=02%7C01%7Cdpotter%40pa.gov%7C21bfb1c2eb934e2b048908d57557e5c6%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C1%7C0%7C636543942737135253&sdata=RxCJ%2BZaR%2FqRnh7OgjfFnGsyD0PE7%2BE%2FVNewqy6mBgOM%3D&reserved=0) 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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# PCCD Approved Annual Trainings

Strangulation Webinar

Thursday, May 10, 2018

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

*(Approved for 1.0 hour of PCCD Annual Training)*

In this webinar, Rachel Haynes Pinsker, JD, Legal Services Manager of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, will explore the lethality of strangulation, a common form of abuse in intimate partner relationships. She will examine Pennsylvania’s strangulation law which makes it a felony to strangle an intimate partner and will also identify resources and services for victims of intimate partner violence.

Objectives:

1. Recognize danger and lethality strangulation poses.

2. Identify forms of strangulation.

3. Understand Pennsylvania’s strangulation law.

4. Identify resources and services available for victims of domestic violence.

To register, please click [here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcopa.webex.com%2Fcopa%2Fonstage%2Fg.php%3FMTID%3De6307d10c94ad922851fe467378bb2b0e&data=02%7C01%7Chhewitt%40pa.gov%7C5c757887c641450b886e08d5942085ea%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C1%7C1%7C636577789771435745&sdata=aNDDpd3kM51qXBRTwjYfn5n9ycsXS%2FBuaMZH61C2MgQ%3D&reserved=0).

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# OVC: Sexual Violence Fact Sheet

Sexual violence encompasses a variety of criminal acts—from sexual threats to unwanted contact to rape. Sexual violence is pervasive and often traumatizing to its victims. For a number of reasons, however, including the stigma and insensitive treatment often associated with these crimes, sexual violence remains highly underreported. Sexual violence is also a difficult concept to measure, primarily due to: inconsistent definitions of sexual assault and rape; differing reporting requirements across local, state, and national law enforcement; and low conviction rates. While people of all genders and gender identities are victims of sexual violence, the majority of these acts are perpetrated by male offenders against female victims. Most victims know the perpetrator in some capacity, either as a friend, acquaintance, family member, or intimate partner. Please click [here](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2018/info_flyers/fact_sheets/2018NCVRW_SexualViolence_508_QC.pdf) to learn more.

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# What Happens To Children Who Survive School Shootings In America?

Over the past two decades, a handful of massacres that have come to define school shootings in this country are almost always remembered for the students and educators slain. Death tolls are repeated so often that the numbers and places become permanently linked. What those figures fail to capture, though, is the collateral damage of this uniquely American crisis. Beginning with Columbine in 1999, more than 187,000 students attending at least 193 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus during school hours, according to a year-long Washington Post analysis. This means that the number of children who have been shaken by gunfire in the places they go to learn exceeds the population of Eugene, Ore., or Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Many are never the same. Please click [here](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/us-school-shootings-history/?utm_term=.d149623c3d27) to read more.

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# Domestic Violence Victim's Memory To Live On In Law That Seeks To Strengthen Protections For Victim

Pennsylvania has a new law in place to strengthen the protections for domestic abuse victims, and it has the family of [Tierne Ewing](http://www.pennlive.com/news/2016/09/kidnapped_pa_wife_shot_dead_ha.html)to thank for it. Ewing was a 48-year-old Washington County woman who was killed by her husband in 2016 after he had been arrested and released a couple of months before for beating and pistol-whipping her, and branding her legs with a piece of hot metal, along with other forms of domestic abuse, while holding her captive from June 26 to July 8. Her story brought to light the need for fixes in the system when it came to judges setting bail for perpetrators in domestic abuse cases. Please click [here](http://www.pennlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/04/domestic_violence_victims_memo.html) to read more.

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# Philadelphia Coalition For Victim Advocacy 2018 Victim Service Awards

The Philadelphia Coalition for Victim Advocacy held their annual awards luncheon on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office. The following awards were presented at the event:

Catherine Bachrach Victim Advocate Award – **Dajah Park**, *Victim Advocate, Victim Witness Services of South Philadelphia*

Barbara McPherson Award / Police Personnel Award – **Inspector Altovise Love-Craighead**, *Philadelphia Police Department*

Special Recognition Award – **Crystal Wortham**, *Center for Grieving Children*

Voice of a Victim – **Rachel Hall**

To learn more about these recipients, please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/PCVA%20Awards.pdf).

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# Advoz: 2018 Trainings Now Open

**Basic Mediation Training**

May 3-5, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Want to feel prepared to handle constructively conflicts that crop up in your personal and professional life? And help others in their conflict? This course introduces you to each stage of the mediation process and to practice being a mediator through multiple role plays.  The communication and conflict resolution skills that a mediator models will also be taught and practiced in the training.

Learn about and practice:

• Communication methods

• Conflict resolution skills

• The mediation process

• Ethics

Practice being a mediator through multiple role plays. Equips you for basic use of mediation in a personal and professional context. Advanced training and mentoring available afterward through Advoz.

Full fee of $475 includes training materials, lunch and refreshments, all led by experienced professional trainers. Discounts and scholarships available.

**Registration deadline is April 26th.** Members of PA Council of Mediators receive an additional $50 discount.  Please contact us to learn more about discount and scholarship opportunities.

*Continuing education (CEU) is available for social workers, professional counselors and family therapists and continuing legal education (CLEs) is available for attorneys for an additional $50.*

To learn more about the trainings and register directly, please click [here](https://advoz.org/training/). If you have any questions, please contact Angela Keen at 717.397.2404, or angela@advoz.org.

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# BWJP: Training Opportunities

* **Promising Community Practices: The High At-Risk Team, Bristol County, Massachusetts**

**Thursday, April 26, 2018 / 2-3:30 p.m. CDT**

The High At-Risk Team (HART) program of Bristol County, MA is an innovative community effort to focus resources on the most dangerous and repeat domestic violence offenders in order to keep victims safe. Assistant District Attorney Courtney Cahill will describe how she launched the program in Bristol County and how the high-risk offender list was established. She will detail the ways in which various system practitioners from advocacy to probation are able to use the list to hold these offenders accountable. She will also share innovative strategies for sharing information and collaborating among partners.

Please click [here](http://www.bwjp.org/training/webinar-promising-community-practices-HART-Bristol-MA.html?utm_source=All+Subscribers&utm_campaign=998edec824-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_03_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_347d47d8e9-998edec824-132881353) to register.

* Should She Stay or Should She Go: Helping Domestic Violence Survivors with Interstate Cases

Thursday, May 3, 2018 / 2-3:30 p.m. CDT

This webinar on basic interstate custody issues will provide participants with an overview of the various federal and state laws that govern interstate custody cases.  It is designed for attorneys, victim advocates, and other community partners who wish to understand the basic framework of how these laws fit together. Case scenarios will be used to demonstrate how practitioners can help survivors address the economic, safety and legal issues involved when they cross state or tribal lines to flee abuse.  Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions during the presentation.

Please click [here](http://www.bwjp.org/training/webinar-domestic-violence-interstate-cases.html?utm_source=All+Subscribers&utm_campaign=6db7e738f0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_03_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_347d47d8e9-6db7e738f0-132881353) to register.

* “You Can’t Believe a Word She Says!”: Credibility Issues for Survivors of Violence with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Histories

Thursday, May 10, 2018 / 2-3:30 p.m. CDT

Survivors who experience mental health or substance use conditions may not be believed when they seek help. These survivors may be experiencing the mental health effects of trauma and/or using substances to cope. In addition, individuals who have a preexisting condition are at a higher risk for violence and may even be targeted for abuse precisely because they are less likely to be believed. Abusers may also intentionally exacerbate a preexisting condition or coerce or force their partners into using alcohol or drugs. But many survivors with these experiences are discredited when they access our systems. This webinar will explore these dynamics and consider how we can re-frame the way that we think about survivors' credibility.

Please click [here](http://www.bwjp.org/training/webinar-survivors-of-violence-with-mental-health-substance-abuse.html?utm_source=All+Subscribers&utm_campaign=6db7e738f0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_03_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_347d47d8e9-6db7e738f0-132881353) to register.

* Protection Orders That Matter

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 / 2-3:30 p.m. CDT

This webinar provides practical information for advocates, petitioners’ counsel, and the courts for approaching domestic violence protection orders that will have a positive impact in the lives of domestic violence survivors. Starting with the basic premise that the legal system’s primary focus is protecting the most vulnerable members of our society, this webinar seeks to promote the rule of law by means of the well-crafted protection order.

Please click [here](http://www.bwjp.org/training/webinar-protection-orders-that-matter.html?utm_source=All+Subscribers&utm_campaign=6db7e738f0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_03_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_347d47d8e9-6db7e738f0-132881353) to register.

* Managing Your Most Dangerous Offenders: Firearms, Stalking, and Strangulation Cases

June 18-20, 2018 / San Diego, California

Domestic Violence (DV) offenders who strangle, stalk, or use firearms to intimidate, threaten, or assault their victims are among the most dangerous offenders on any probation agent’s case load. Supervision of these offenders is challenging, yet it presents opportunities to increase victim safety. When the severity, dangerousness, and impact of these crimes are acknowledged by the court and by probation, both the offender and the victim are sent a strong message: this will not be tolerated by the criminal legal system or by the community. Participants will have the opportunity to work with experienced probation agents from around the county and other national DV experts to explore promising practices of local communities working to address these offenders. You will gain hands-on skills and the knowledge to build better practices and policies to implement in your community.

To learn more and to register, please click [here](http://www.bwjp.org/training/managing_your_most_dangerous_offenders_firearms_stalking_and_strangulation_cases.html?utm_source=All+Subscribers&utm_campaign=1b21e2cd21-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_04_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_347d47d8e9-1b21e2cd21-132881353).

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# Save The Date: PCADV’s Progress Through Unity Conference

**When: October 24-26, 2018**

**Where: Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA**

**Request for Proposals / Conference Speakers**

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) seeks proposals for “Progress Through Unity,” our biennial statewide conference. This year, the theme of our conference focuses on collectively creating and sustaining healthy communities. Since celebrating PCADV’s 40th anniversary in 2016, we realize the need for progression and innovation in domestic violence advocacy and prevention work. Using the tracks of **Safe, Healthy, Inclusive**, and **Just**, we are in search of new and progressive workshops that address community conditions, norms and root factors in efforts to end and prevent domestic violence.

**Click** [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/93K3Z23?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=297b7bb2-8cc2-43c6-9624-b42cba252636) **submit your completed proposal.** For additional information, please contact 2018conference@pcadv.org.

**Deadline for Submission: April 30, 2018**

**More details** about the Progress Through Unity Conference, as well as registration details, will be available soon.

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# PCCD STOP Grantee Meeting 2018

All current STOP Formula Grant Project Directors should be on the lookout for an email from PCCD within the next week containing the link to register for the STOP Grantee Meeting to be held May 8-9, 2018 at the Best Western Premier in Harrisburg.

Each county is encouraged to send up to three representatives from its STOP Collaborating Team to the meeting. The representatives must be from different disciplines (i.e. law enforcement, prosecution, victim services or other required members such as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, sheriff, or underserved populations representative. All three team members from each county will be reimbursed for overnight accommodations at the hotel, mileage and subsistence.

The meeting will feature nationally recognized speakers on forensic experiential interviewing and sustainable collaboration building. Additionally, a number of workshops on responses to violence against women crimes; improving services to underserved populations and team building will be available to attendees on a rotating basis.

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# Campus Safety – Roundtables Across The State

862 Pennsylvanians between the ages of 15 and 24 died from drug overdoses in 2016… 1,700 college students die each year from alcohol-related injuries… One in five young adults experiences a mental health condition… Students of college age are at higher risk for sexual violence than other age groups…

In 2017 Attorney General Josh Shapiro launched a campus safety initiative bringing students, university leaders, health professionals and law enforcement together to address drug and alcohol abuse, mental health and sexual assault on university campuses. Community-based roundtables were held at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University. This Spring the series of roundtables will continue across the Commonwealth; taking place at Lincoln University, University of Pittsburgh, and Dickinson College.  These roundtables will once again bring together students, victim advocates, survivors, local law enforcement, college and university staff, and experts from different fields. In collaborative working groups, participants will identify strategies and promote responses that are survivor-centered and trauma-informed.

We’re calling out to everyone who has a stake in these critical issues to bring their knowledge and expertise to the table. The conversation must be community-driven to be effective, and we’re looking for a broad, diverse group of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds to participate in our upcoming roundtables.

[Dickinson College](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Dickinson_College_Registration_2018.pdf),  Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – **Registration closes May 10, 2018**

For more information, please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Campus%20Safety%20Announcement.pdf).

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# HAVIN Presents: LT. Daniel Rincon: Training Institute On Strangulation Prevention

Strangulation is one of the most dangerous forms of physical violence that occurs in the context of intimate partner violence cases. An abuser’s attempt to strangle the victim can be a dramatic predictor of future lethality in intimate partner violence cases. Recognizing how serious a crime strangulation is for victims of intimate partner violence and child abuse, the PA legislature enacted the new crime of strangulation that took effect on December 26, 2016. This crime amends Title 18 of the crime code by adding Section 2718, the strangulation offense, which now allows prosecutors to charge defendants with the crime of strangulation. This training will address the basics of investigation, documentation, prosecution and advocacy of near‐fatal strangulation cases and explore an integrated approach to responding to near‐fatal strangulation cases.

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Belmont Complex

415 Butler Rd

Kittanning, PA 16201

Registration and Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Training

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

*Pending 7 hours of CLEE are available for municipal police officers through MPOETC.*

For more information, please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Training%20Institute%20on%20Strangulation%20Prevention.pdf).

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# The Third Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Forensic Nursing Conference

Please join us on **Friday, June 1, 2018** for The Third Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Forensic Nursing Conference hosted by Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health and Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)

**Topics**

* How Trauma, Victimization and Addiction Are All Connected
* From Depression to Psychosis: Strategies for Caring for Patients with Mental Illness during a Forensic Examination
* Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault and the Investigation and Prosecution of Cases
* The Benefits of Vulnerability Risk Assessment Toward Prevention of Workplace Violence
* Beyond the Basics: Assisting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Trafficked Adults
* Integrative Healing

**Speakers**

* **Jen Storm**, Victim Advocate of the Commonwealth of PA
* **Dr. Julie Valentine**, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University College of Nursing
* **Dr. Marc LeBeau**, Senior Forensic Scientist of the Scientific Analysis Section of the FBI Laboratory, Quantico, Virginia
* **Dr. Paul Clement**, Clinical Professor, Drexel University - College of Nursing and Health Professions
* **Alexis Kreiger**, Victim Specialist, Philadelphia Division of the FBI
* **Dr. Astra Czerny**, Licensed Professional Counselor

Abington Jefferson Health

1200 Old York Road

Abington, PA 19001

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: $50.00 (includes breakfast and lunch)

*Nursing CEUs to be awarded for successful completion of the conference*

Please click [here](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=426b1f47-8bc0-4a31-bef5-65ce6ccd42f7&preview=true&m=1102962934205&id=preview) to register.

\*\* We would like to thank Aria Jefferson Health and Verizon for their support of this conference \*\*

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# Summer Peacebuilding Institute

Just Outcomes is instructing at the Summer Peacebuilding Institute from June 8 – 10, 2018, at the Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia. You can strengthen your restorative justice program development, leadership, and facilitation skills through a deepened understanding and orientation toward the needs of crime victims and survivors. Learn about the intersection between trauma recovery, victim assistance and restorative justice. Develop new strategies for program implementation and service delivery. Just Outcomes hope you can join them in June! Please click [here](http://createsend.com/t/y-2DBEC060F961CF51) to learn more,

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# Save The Date: 2018 National Institute For The Prosecution Of Elder Abuse

The **2018 National Institute for the Prosecution of Elder Abuse (NIPEA)** is planned to be held August 7-10 in Philadelphia, PA. This is a three-and-one-half-day course designed to challenge prosecutors to reevaluate their approach to prosecuting elder abuse cases. Participants receive training on the dynamics of elder abuse as well as practical skills to successfully prosecute these cases.

Questions? Please contact Ann Laatsch, NCALL Justice System Coordinator, at alaatsch@ncall.us.

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# ****Scholarships Available For 2018 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 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 2018 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. To view the Scholarship Application, please click [here](http://www.pdaa.org/2018-pccd-scholarship-application1-2/).

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# New Program Highlights

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 Heather Hewitt at hhewitt@pa.gov.

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. 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 by Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

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.

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)