**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

October 15, 2020

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=pccd&service=6&rnd=0.6668060301536507&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpccd.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fprogram%2FprogramDetail.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26internalProgramTicket%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26siteurl%3Dpccd%26internalProgramTicketUnList%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26cProgViewID%3D1727107%26PRID%3D9c0a5f356b9ee12dc7de27fe147bb352)Compensation Related: Basic Compensation and much more!

Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description). To receive training credits: 1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session. As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

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

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# RASA/VOJO Quarterly Program Reports Due By October 20th

September 30th marked the end of the 7th Period for RASA/VOJO grants.  RASA/VOJO Quarterly Program Reports are due to be submitted in Egrants by October 20, 2020.

If you need assistance with EGrants, please contact the EGrants Help Desk at RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov or 717.787.5887.  If you have any questions regarding your RASA/VOJO Quarterly Program Report, please contact Vicki McCloskey at vmccloskey@pa.gov or (717) 265-8746, or Maria Katulis at mkatulis@pa.gov or (717) 265-8741.

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# Together, We Can Help Our Friends, Neighbors, And Communities By #ListeningFromHome

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020 is here. Domestic violence was already an epidemic before COVID-19, but the health crisis has caused a tremendous spike in incidents of abuse. Even as lockdown restrictions are lifted, the abuse will not simply end. It remains a critical time for survivors, and greater awareness, education, and bystander intervention are desperately needed. This October join us in activating bystanders and sharing information that can help those who are experiencing violence during this unprecedented time. Please click [here](https://nomore.org/campaigns/dvam/) to learn more.

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# Meeting This Moment For Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020

As we approach Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020, the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](https://www.dvawareness.org/) invites you to commit to doing [#1Thing](https://www.dvawareness.org/1thing) to help create safe and thriving communities for all. **Please click** [here](https://www.dvawareness.org/node/69) **for some ways you can take action.**

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# VIP Raises Domestic Violence Awareness

Executive director of Wayne County’s Victims Intervention Program (VIP) Michele Minor-Wolf visited the Wayne County Commissioners last week to discuss domestic violence awareness.

“When everything else is shut down, unfortunately, violence does not seem to stop and sometimes can even escalate,” she said. To kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Minor-Wolf explained that the term incorporates much more than just physical abuse: emotional, financial, verbal, intimidation and sexual abuse make up the majority of people who seek VIP’s help, she said.

Each year in Pennsylvania, domestic violence advocates across the state take a one-day snapshot of the services they provide. Last year, that snapshot revealed that 2,630 Pennsylvanians sought help from a domestic violence situation in one day. Minor-Wolf also shared statistics from the PA Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, which found that there were 112 fatalities from domestic violence in 2019. Gathering this data in Pennsylvania, however, is an imperfect process. Please click [here](https://riverreporter.com/stories/vip-raises-domestic-violence-awareness%2C39843) to read more.

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# Renovated Rooms Open For Clients At Domestic Violence Services Of Cumberland And Perry Counties

People who are going through trauma and difficult situations need space. They need welcoming spaces where they feel valued, and comfortable spaces where they can think. Thanks to the work of volunteers, such spaces are now available at the Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties’ shelter. Shelter manager Sonya Browne said the rooms at the shelter get “used very hard” when women and children are brought in. The rooms they had were usable, but they needed some updating. Enter the volunteers. Please click [here](https://cumberlink.com/news/local/renovated-rooms-open-for-clients-at-domestic-violence-services-of-cumberland-and-perry-counties/article_a267d58b-9400-5d8d-baa4-b6ebe805fa36.html) to read more.

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# Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Knowing The Signs And How To Find Help

You will see many people sporting purple over the next few weeks. October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Events will be canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, but you can still make a difference by just knowing the signs. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, domestic violence has been on the rise during the pandemic. Victims are forced to spend more time around their abusers. For domestic violence advocates, this has caused challenges in getting victims the resources they need. They hope October’s awareness will help draw necessary attention. Please click [here](https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/10/05/domestic-violence-awareness-month-signs/) to read more.

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# Four Ways Employers Can Support Employees Dealing With Domestic Violence

Domestic and intimate partner violence can feel like an issue that’s entirely separate from the workplace – a challenge that individuals face in their homes and personal lives that isn’t connected to their employers. But in practice, an employee suffering physical or sexual abuse in their personal lives may struggle in the workplace as well. According to the Society for Human Resource Management, absenteeism due to domestic violence costs US employers nearly $1.8 billion per year. How can employers protect their employees from abuse and support their efforts to remain healthy, productive members of the team? Please click [here](https://www.raliance.org/4-ways-employers-can-support-employees-dealing-with-domestic-violence/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email) to read more.

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# Adapting Custodial Practices To Reduce Trauma For Incarcerated Women

Without intentionally changing custodial practices to consider women’s histories of victimization and reduce further trauma, correctional facilities will continue to trigger, retraumatize, and harm the women in their custody. This report details how departments of corrections (DOCs) and women’s prisons adapt operational philosophies and custodial practices to reduce trauma and victimization. Most study participants recognized that women have unique needs, pathways to incarceration, and victimization histories that must be considered in policies and practices, and incorporated gender-responsive training into their core staff curricula. Some adapted processes for body searches and discipline, sanctions, and incentives. However, incarcerated women we spoke with indicated that custodial practices are highly dependent on officer discretion and that officers do not always follow protocols. Please click [here](https://www.urban.org/research/publication/adapting-custodial-practices-reduce-trauma-incarcerated-women) to read more.

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# When Dating Hurts – A Memoir

In June 2005, Kristin Mitchell was killed by her ex-boyfriend 20 days after her college graduation. This book tells the journey her family has taken since then. They were faced with a decision: concentrate only on healing themselves—or take what they were experiencing and use it to help others who might face a similar situation. "When Dating Hurts" is a detailed account of what the Mitchells learned the hard way beginning with the call from detectives. Besides telling their tragedy, this book offers sound advice gained from domestic violence counselors, law enforcement professionals, victims, and survivors. 1 in 3 women will suffer serious physical violence in their lifetimes at the hands of an intimate partner. This typically happens between the ages of 16 and 24, but it can happen at any age. "When Dating Hurts" is dedicated to Kristin Mitchell and all women who are taken from this life before their time by the epidemic of dating violence. The Mitchell family is certain that reading this book will save a few innocent young women. Let this story help someone you care about. To learn more and to sign up for a monthly newsletter, please click [here](https://www.whendatinghurts.com/).

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# The State Of The LGBTQ Community In 2020

As the country continues to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 health and economic crises, the complexity of experiences and attitudes among LGBTQ Americans remains underexamined. How are LGBTQ individuals handling the coronavirus pandemic? What barriers are these groups facing in accessing and receiving effective health care? More broadly speaking, are LGBTQ individuals facing ongoing discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity? And what effects might these experiences have upon their personal and financial well-being?

To better understand these and other questions, the Center for American Progress, in conjunction with the independent and nonpartisan research group NORC at the University of Chicago, designed one of the most comprehensive surveys to date exploring the lives, attitudes, and experiences of LGBTQ Americans. Please click [here](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2020/10/06/491052/state-lgbtq-community-2020/) to read more.

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# October Is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

As school, socializing, and many aspects of life have moved online this year, it’s more important than ever that you protect your digital devices and steer clear of cybercriminals. So during [National Cyber Security Awareness Month](https://www.cisa.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month) (NCSAM), observed each October, the FBI and partner agencies remind you to do your part and #BeCyberSmart all year long. Please click [here](https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month) to learn more.

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# Social Media Abuse Drives Girls Off Facebook, Instagram, Twitter – Poll

Online abuse is driving girls to quit social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, with nearly 60% experiencing harassment, a global study showed. One in five girls and young women has abandoned or cut down on using a social media platform after being targeted, with some saying harassment started when they were as young as eight, the survey by girls' rights group Plan International showed. Please click [here](https://news.trust.org/item/20201004180743-7snwb/?fbclid=IwAR0Ke0JbOwxg2CbhavrEbuBHtFcYzaSsxrbK239PlaEyDIXivogC5MEMdKk) to read more.

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# Take The Online Safety Pledge

While we continue to develop our understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and social distancing on child safety, we already know that more time online means more direct access to children, including for those intending to harm them. From online enticement to sexting and sextortion, it is critical that we combine efforts to protect children from online risks. Please click [here](https://safetypledge.org/#toolkit) to learn more. *(Best viewed with Google Chrome)*

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# Homeland Threat Assessment 2020

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security annual “Homeland Threat Assessment 2020” was published last week and found that violent white supremacists pose the 'most persistent and lethal threat' to the United States. The report said that since 2018, white supremacists have executed more deadly attacks on U.S. soil than any other domestic extremist movement. Please click [here](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020_10_06_homeland-threat-assessment.pdf) to read more.

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# FBI Releases 2019 Crime Statistics

Today, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released its 2019 edition of *Crime in the United States*, which showed that violent crime decreased nationwide for the third consecutive year.  After decreases in both 2017 and 2018, the violent crime rate dropped an additional one percent this past year and the property crime rate decreased 4.5 percent.

Since 1930, the FBI has tracked nationwide data on crimes and publishes its compilation each year.  Submitting data to the FBI is a collective effort on the part of city, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies to present a nationwide view of crime.

Please click [here](https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2019-crime-statistics) for more information.

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# Job Openings In The Office Of Victims’ Services

The Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) currently has vacancies for Criminal Justice System Specialists within the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. These positions are responsible for providing financial reimbursement/guidance and other compensation related services to victims of crime, their families and/or significant others, and other claimants.

You can apply for the Criminal Justice System Specialist 1 vacancy at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau>. In the Search box, type Criminal Justice System Specialist and hit enter.  If any jobs are currently open, they will be listed.  Unlike in the past, there is no examination where a prospective candidate can be placed on a list with a score.  Under the new system, the score you receive is for that particular job announcement.  Interested candidates will need to apply for each individual position.

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# Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association / Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute – Employment Opportunity

The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA) and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI) are seeking a highly motivated full-time **Business Manager** to join their team. The Business Manager is responsible for administrative office tasks including monitoring incoming training monies, managing consultant contracts, employee timekeeping, managing building maintenance, tracking monthly invoices and preparing checks. The Business Manager is responsible for data input related to accounting but will work closely with the staff accountant in fulfilling these responsibilities. Additional data input and tracking is required relating to the PDAI’s Grant Funding. The Administrative Office Manager will be responsible for compiling relevant information and inputting it into the grant application and monitoring software.

The successful applicant **must be** proficient in the use of Quickbooks, Excel, Word and Adobe Acrobat. The ideal applicant will also have experience utilizing PCCD’s Egrants system, have a background in office administration and be able to quickly learn and execute the varying job tasks with confidence.

Due to the governor’s order this position is temporarily partially remote, however, this is an in-person position located at 2929 N. Front Street in Harrisburg, PA.

A complete list of job duties can be found by clicking [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Business%20Manager%20PDAI.pdf).

Interested applicants should send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to Executive Director Lindsay Vaughan at lvaughan@pdaa.org.

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# Domestic Violence Service Center – Employment Opportunity

Change the world in real time ...

Domestic Violence Service Center has an immediate opening for a full-time (35 hours/week) **Staff Attorney** to work with a non-profit law firm to represent clients in civil legal matters with an emphasis in family law.

Applicants should have at least one year of experience in family law and victim advocacy. A law degree from an accredited law school and license to practice law in Pennsylvania required. Applicants must also pass PA Child Abuse History clearance, PA Criminal Background Check and FBI Criminal Background check.

To apply, please send your resume to skremski@dvsclc.org

Domestic Violence Service Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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# Mission Kids – Employment Opportunities

**Make a Difference for Children.** Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center: A Place of Healing and Justice for Child Abuse Victims is seeking a full-time Forensic Interviewer. The Forensic Interviewer is a critical member of our multi-disciplinary team, responsible for gathering detailed information about events from our most vulnerable populations, as well as facilitating the conversations with our multi-disciplinary team members.

**Great Team.** For the past decade, Mission Kids has been a leader in the field to protect and heal our most vulnerable children. The staff have an unyielding commitment to their clients, as well as each other. Staff are drawn to Mission Kids because of their commitment to the mission; but stay because of the organization’s investment in them.

**Great Work Environment and Benefits.**Mission Kids provides a supportive, collaborative work environment that focuses on the growth and development of employees. Great benefits package includes generous paid time off, self-care activities, 403b match, and a great health, dental and vision plan.

[Family Advocate Supervisor](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/MKFamilyAdvocateSupervisor2020.pdf)

[Forensic Interviewer](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Mission%20KidsFI2020.pdf)

If you are interested, please send cover letter and resume to jobs@missionkidscac.org. Mission Kids does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin(ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Mission Kids is an equal opportunity employer.

Mission Kids is a nonprofit organization with a drive to achieve healing and justice for victims of justice by providing collaborative services, advocacy, leadership and education. To learn more please see our website at [www.missionkidscac.org/.](https://missionkidscac.org/)

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# A Woman’s Place – Employment Opportunities

A Woman’s Place (AWP), a community-based social change organization serving victims of domestic violence, currently has open employment opportunities. For full job descriptions and application process please visit our website: [https://awomansplace.org/get-involved/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fawomansplace.org%2Fget-involved%2F&data=02%7C01%7Csbrendling%40pa.gov%7C05605b711196466a36e808d7e6103c13%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637230829715543440&sdata=crkTLivE1w%2Bz%2FaffAbsTKBDUZRftplAHRgjpzYrABJ0%3D&reserved=0)

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# Updated! Network of Victim Assistance – Employment Opportunities

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a nonprofit organization serving victims of sexual assault and other crimes. Located in Bucks County, PA, NOVA is the comprehensive victim services organization in Bucks County.  With a 45-year history, NOVA has expanded to include a continuum of prevention and direct services to prevent and address the needs of victims of sexual abuse and other serious crimes.  NOVA is known across many disciplines and the community at large for its exceptional services and professionalism.  With a 4.5-million-dollar operating budget, NOVA continues to grow.  As a mature and fiscally sound organization, establishing sustainability is key to our future success -- serving all victims who need services, educating the community at large on violence prevention in our community, and providing top-ranked professional trainings.

[Data Management and Quality Assurance (DMQA)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Data%20Management%20and%20Quality%20Assurance.pdf)

[Forensic Nurse Examiner – Contractor](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/FNE%20%28Contracted%29%20Job%20Announcement%20-%20Final.pdf)

[Part-time Human Trafficking Task Force Organizer (27 hours/week)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Human%20Trafficking%20Task%20Force%20Organizer.pdf)

[Thrift Shop Sales Associate](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/THRIFT%20SHOP%20SALES%20ASSOCIATE.pdf)

[Training Coordinator](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Training%20Coordinator.pdf)

[Director, Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Director%20of%20the%20Bucks%20County%20CAC.pdf) – new!

Located in Bucks County, PA, the Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC), a service of NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance), provides a safe and child-friendly environment in which the CAC staff, law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, advocacy, medical and mental health professionals collaborate to implement effective and coordinated investigations of suspected child abuse and connect child victims and their families to medical, mental health, and other social services.

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

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# NEW! Helping Victims Of Mass Violence During The COVID-19 Pandemic

This two-part webinar is designed to help Victim Service Providers who work with mass violence victims identify service needs, provide timely assistance incorporating technology, and engage in self-care during the current pandemic. Please click [here](http://nmvvrc.org/News/Webinars) for more information.

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# NEW! Victim Services For Incarcerated Women

This webinar presents findings from the Urban Institute’s Evaluation of In-prison Programming: Addressing Prior Trauma and Victimization, funded by the National Institute of Justice. Researchers from Urban and the Center for Effective Public Policy present findings from its national scan of Practice, including the extent to which correctional institutions address victimization and trauma among incarcerated women and seek to advance trauma-informed practices.

Please click [here](https://victimresearch.org/webinar/victim-services-for-incarcerated-women/) to view this webinar.

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# NEW! Working Together To End Homelessness For Domestic And Sexual Violence Survivors And Their Families

The need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most vital and immediate concerns for survivors of violence and abuse. Black people, Indigenous people, and other person(s) of color are overrepresented in homeless populations due to structural racism, historical measures, network impoverishment, and other racial disparities across systems. View Safe Housing Partnerships’ first animation on [***The Intersection of Homelessness and Domestic Violence***](https://youtu.be/gVnwGFqyEcQ)**.**

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# NEW! NCJTC – Take A Self-Paced Online Class

The National Criminal Justice Training Center offers 9 NO FEE self-paced courses about topics related to child sex trafficking cases.

[Child Sex Trafficking: An Overview](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00003429/TRI0109768/child-sex-trafficking-an-overview?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[Child Sex Trafficking: Innovative Programs](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00003432/TRI0109830/child-sex-trafficking-innovative-programs?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[Child Sex Trafficking: Interviewing Victims](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00003431/TRI0109834/child-sex-trafficking-interviewing-victims-1?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[Child Sex Trafficking: Prosecuting Child Sex Trafficking Cases](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00003430/TRI0109831/child-sex-trafficking-prosecuting-child-sex-trafficking-cases-1?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[Child Sex Trafficking: Victim-Centered Investigations](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00005986/TRI0109836/cst-victim-centered-investigations?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[FIT: Dynamics of CST Victim Interviews (Parts 1 & 2)](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00010879/TRI0109832/dynamics-of-cst-victim-interviews?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[FIT: Preparing for the CST Forensic Interview](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00010880/TRI0109920/preparing-for-the-cst-forensic-interview?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[Following the Evidence in a Child Sex Trafficking Forensic Interview](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00004322/TRI0109842/follow-the-evidence-cse-forensic-interview?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

[Law Enforcement and Community Response to CST and Exploitation in Indian Country](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00005353/TRI0109949/law-enforcement-and-community-response-to-cst-and-exploitation-in-indian-community-online?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-05-%20selfpaced%20cst&utm_term=self-paced)

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# NEW! 2-Part Webinar Series On Recognizing And Responding To Stalking

An estimated 6 to 7.5 million people are the victims of stalking each year in the United States.  If you are not aware, stalking is one of the Federal purpose areas for our STOP Program grantees.  It is often under reported due to the complex nature of the crime but also its co-occurrence with domestic violence.  This webinar will provide participants with a direct perspective of stalking from a survivor, Anna Nasset who was also featured on the podcast [Simply Stalking](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/strictly-stalking/id1494237083).  The second series of the webinar will provide investigative tools and dynamics of stalking and will be presented by two experienced law enforcement professionals.

[A Survivor Speaks: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking](https://evawintl.org/courses/a-survivor-speaks-recognizing-and-responding-to-stalking/)

Monday, October 19, 2020

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

[Investigating Stalking Crimes Within Sexual Assault Cases](https://evawintl.org/courses/investigating-stalking-crimes-within-sexual-assault-cases/)

Monday, October 26, 2020

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

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# NEW! Meeting The Needs Of Autistic Survivors

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

2:00 p.m. (ET)

Autistic people live in a society that was not designed for them: one in which they are often forced to conceal who they are and are unable to receive the accommodations they need. When Autistic people also experience victimization, they are more likely to experience barriers to accessing services, stigma, and a fundamental misunderstanding of their needs from the systems set up for justice and healing. This webinar, featuring Max Barrows of Green Mountain Self-Advocates and Kaitlin Shetler of the Vera Institute of Justice, will address the barriers Autistic survivors face in seeking healing services following sexual and domestic violence and ways in which service providers can better meet their needs.

Please click [here](https://verainstitute.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Evpsy1f7SIGO3_AYphGkPQ) to register.

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# NEW! Medicaid – What Every Victim Advocate Needs To Know

[Thursday, November 5, 2020](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500245&RegType=ATT)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Thursday, November 12, 2020](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500257&RegType=ATT)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The presentation will provide an overview of Medicaid (called Medical Assistance in Pennsylvania) program with special focus on victims of crime.

Victim advocates will be introduced Pennsylvania Health Law Project’s (PHLP) VOCA Services. Over more than two decades, through policy advocacy, outreach, education, and legal representation, PHLP has changed the lives of low-income Pennsylvanians. PHLP’s VOCA Service exclusively serves victims of crime and will function as the go-to place for victims and their advocates as a resource is securing health care.

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

The following training will be held on October 21, 2020.

 “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” – 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on October 28, 2020.

 Basic Compensation – 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on November 4, 2020.

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

The following training will be held on November 4, 2020.

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

The following training will be held on November 18, 2020.

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

The following training will be held on November 18, 2020.

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

The following training will be held on December 2, 2020.

 Loss of Earnings Clinic - 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on December 9, 2020.

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

The following training will be held on December 16, 2020.

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

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 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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# Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System

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

The PVST is resource center for PCCD funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations to receive free, quality, and easily accessible training. The training is Pennsylvania-specific, web based, and can be taken on the student’s own timeframe. There are currently 24 approved programs, totaling 48 hours of training, on the PVST.

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

**The Race/Ethnicity – Hispanic Victims course will assist learners develop an understanding of the broad array of culture and beliefs of Hispanic groups in Pennsylvania, including how culture and language differences impact service delivery to victims.**

**This Module was developed in 2018 and will qualify for 2 hours of training credit which can be used to meet PCCD’s Training Standard for Victim Advocates.**

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# UPDATED! Network Of Victim Assistance Auction & Gala

Thursday, October 15, 2020

7:00 p.m.

**This year's** Evening in the Roaring 20s **has been shifted to an online event!**

**Join us on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. You can learn the Charleston, bid on silent auction items, and hear from NOVA clients all from the comfort of your own home. The event will feature 1920's entertainment, a silent auction with 200+ items, and a wine pull!**

**Please click** [here](https://e.givesmart.com/events/e1u/) **for more information.**

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# Upcoming Webinars From BWJP

[Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in the Protection Order Process: Challenges and Options](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p8N8C5TkR1CuAC9IPcEQ-w?utm_source=All+Subscribers&utm_campaign=0c4950a045-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_30_04_16_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_347d47d8e9-0c4950a045-132881353)
**Tuesday, October 20, at 2:00 p.m. ET**

Human trafficking victims often experience several forms of abuse, such as domestic violence and sexual assault. These survivors may be afraid to disclose information to obtain relevant legal assistance, thereby remaining vulnerable to traffickers. To address this issue, attorneys must have the knowledge and tools to understand human trafficking, identify victims, and recognize the legal needs of these survivors. This webinar will examine the complexities of human trafficking and the challenges survivors face when deciding whether or not to obtain a protection order. Participants will receive information on how to obtain tools, training, and technical assistance on understanding human trafficking and assisting survivors.

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# 2020 National Training Institute

November 11-13, 2020

Zoom (virtual)

Improve your response to victims of crime through **promising practices, current research, and effective programs and policies.**

Our multidisciplinary institute offers more than **80 victim-centered, practice-based, research-informed trainings** to sharpen your skills, connect with peers, and reach across professions, including:

* law enforcement
* victim service professionals
* attorneys
* members of the military and Department of Defense
* counselors
* allied practitioners
* policymakers
* researchers

The National Training Institute and the National Crime Victim Bar Association National Conference (NCVBA) are held in conjunction. Attendees of both trainings are welcome to attend sessions in either track.

*\*\*In order to receive continuing legal credits, attendees must be registered for the NCVBA Conference.*

Please click [here](https://nti.secure-platform.com/a/) for more information and to register.

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# Safe Schools Conference Registration Now Open

Tuesday, December 8 – Thursday, December 10, 2020

This virtual event will focus on school safety, cyber security and relationships, bullying prevention, emergency and crisis response, and other relevant topics. Hear state and national experts present the latest research and trends in school safety, youth violence prevention, evidenced-based program models, promising practices and more.

The conference is an exceptional professional development opportunity for school administrators, student support personnel, teachers, school nurses, SAP team members, mental health professionals, school resource officers, local law enforcement and other community partners.

[Please](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcenter-school.us19.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D728b8701b808031262c81b83f%26id%3Dd4213af8db%26e%3Db2a3588335&data=02%7C01%7Chhewitt%40pa.gov%7Cef6a692ca5b24d3dbbf808d8615434d3%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637366361585778345&sdata=jp8vRbcuiW%2BterbjyB3qe%2BVXFWE%2Bz4dZndYNV3Vpl9g%3D&reserved=0) click [here](https://conference.safeschools.info/registration-information/) to register.

**EARLY BIRD RATE is $225, through November 30. After November 30, conference rate will be $250.**

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If your program is offering new or extended services, or implementing new initiatives that you would like to highlight, please submit your news article to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov.

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **October 28, 2020**. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov by Wednesday, **October 21, 2020**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services. This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email. If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Stacie Brendlinger at (717) 265-8722 or via email at sbrendling@pa.gov.

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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx) | 3101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110 | (717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.